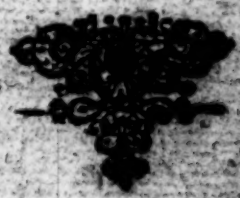
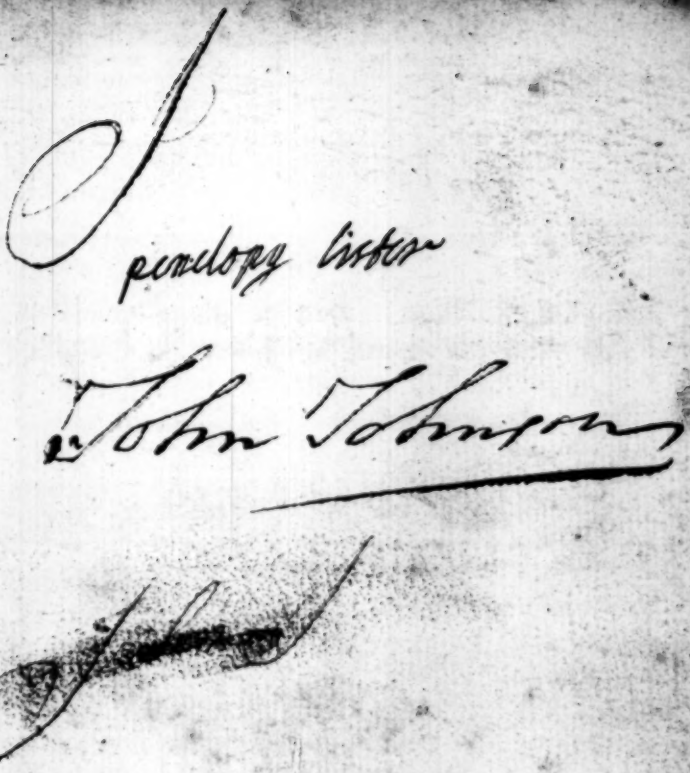
THE Inconstant-Lover: AN EXCELLENT ROMANCE.

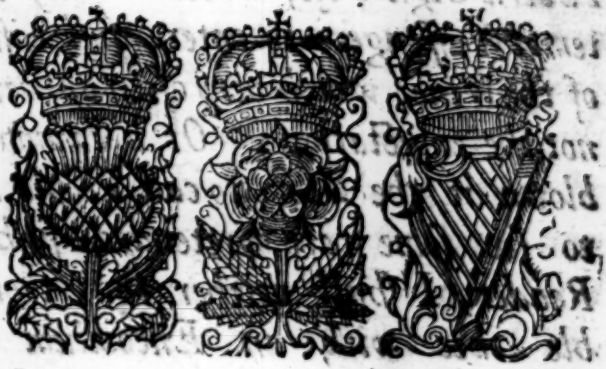
Translated out of French.



LONDON,

Printed for *Tho. Dring*, at the Sign of the *White Lyon*, next Chancery-Lane, in *Fleet-street*. 1671.





TO THE READER.

IT is the common pretence of a Preface, to acquaint the Reader with the Excellencies of the Book he has in hand; and is, indeed, no more to be regarded than a gilded Bush at a

Tavern Sign-Poſt, which is only to tempt Paſſengers to enter, and taſte of the Wine, which very often anſwers not the expectation; Or a Trumpet blown at the Door, to call People in to ſee ſome rare pretended ſight. Reader, I ſhall neither thus trouble thee with an Encomium of this Piece; nor yet ſtuff a ſheet of Paper with ſubmiſſions, and entreaties of a pardon for its faults.

This is but a Copy taken from a fam'd Original; which, for it's Excellence, carryes the vogue in France, for the moſt exquiſite Piece of this Nature now Extant. The Author was a Man above Cenſure, for his wit has rank'd him in the higheſt Sphear of Fame. The Tranſlator too is in this

above

above either thy praiſe or malice; for he neither loveth the one, nor cares for the other. The dreſſing it in our Language was the ſpeedy paſtime of his idle hours, that he did for his own ſatisfaction; now I know you expect I ſhould ſay I publiſh it at the requeſt and importunity of Friends; But thou art once deceived; for as I then did it to pleaſure my ſelf, I now expoſe it for the delight of them that are Curious in Books of this Nature. And to convince you that I am not Covetous of the Worlds good Opinion, or tickled with an itch of having my Name ſeen before a Book, I publiſh the one without the other.

And now, Reader, that I may not detain you from the Story, with a long

long impertinent Preface, as many Writers do, who never think they have done enough; I leave thee to the perusal of it, not doubting, but the thing will answer the expectation of the most Curious and judicious Reader.

Farewel.

Playes Printed for Tho. Dring.

Love and Honour. { By Sir *W. D'Avenant*.
Unfortunate Lovers. { By *J. Fletcher*.
Rule a Wife, and have a Wife.
Thierry and Theodorat.
The Woman-Hater.
The Changeling.
Albumazar.
School of Complements.
Hero and Leander.

Playes newly Printed.

The Amorous Prince, or the Curious Husband.
The Town-Shifts, or the Suburb-Justice.
The Six Day's Adventure, or the *New-Utopia*.

The

The First Book.

THE Great *Alcidor* no longer able to endure that *Certasilan* should so absolutely enjoy the incomparable *Astasia*, solliciting her to consent, that he might again convey her out of his ingrossing hands; and She indeed loved the Author of this Advice with too much Flame to be backward to comply with him in any thing that was honest, and that admitted a plausible excuse; but when she came seriously to consider the Quality and Consequence of this Second Rape, She could finde no Prætext that was Tolerable with which to favour it. The Reasons which moved Her to disallow his Demands, and with which She endeavoured to silence them, were, that She had no more any cause to complain of *Certasilan*, who treated Her with more sweetness than

She cared for; that She could not forſake Him without making the King and Her Siſter Her Enemies; without indeed working the Ruine of her Honour and Comfort; and that She hoped they ſhould in time have Liberty of ſeeing and Entertaining one another at their Pleaſure, without Her running away from Him, conſidering that He kept her not Company ſo cloſely as He was wont, and, beſides, was no longer jealous. Nothing could have come more ſtrange to the Lovers Mind than did theſe arguings of his Miſtreſs; He took them not onely for a flat Denial of what He had begged, but alſo for an unqueſtionable Aſſurance that She no longer Loved Him: and hurried away with this Opinion, all in a rage he flung from her without vouchſafing Her any Reply. This his Indignation was as wounding to Her, as her Reaſoning had been offenſive to Him; it ſtruck deep into her Heart, and moved it from the bottom. But ſhe conſidered that it Imported Her not to be troubled at it, ſo as to be taken notice of; She therefore made uſe of all Her forces to undergoe it ſo as became Her. But what with her Inquietudes which grew Rigorous, & what with the conſtraint which She exerciſed upon Herſelf

to

to ſuppreſs them, She ſo much indammaged Her Health that She within few houres went ſick to Bed. Where having lain two dayes without *Alcidor*, who had knowledge of it, ſhewing himſelf not at all concerned in it (as indeed looking upon it as Counterfeit) ſwallowing down the Affront which She could not chew upon without a moſt exaſperating diſguſt, She gave Her *Page* the charge of the enſuing Letter and bringing back an Anſwer.

Aſtaſia *to* Alcidor.

WHat have I euer done againſt you to Merit the Pain which You make Me endure? Have You obſerued in Me one ſole Motion tending to diſpleaſe or diſoblige You? If when You Propounded to Me a ſecond Flight, I freely, yet cooly repreſented to You the Reaſons by which I ought to be kept from it, is this a Crime which deſerues to be puniſht with ſo much Severity? I well know You haue not to this hour been at all toucht with My Illneſs, and yet I cannot forbear telling You that Your Diſpleaſure has well-nigh brought Me to the Grave. To bear Me as You haue done, to haue notice of my Indiſpoſition, to be Conſcious to your ſelf that you are the cauſe of

it, and not in the leaſt to be moved at it, to think of this, Oh me! Afflicts Me to the utmoſt Point. I can go no farther, and if Your unkindneſs continue, know that with the loſs of Your Affection You will quickly ſee that of My Life.

Though at the inſtant of Reading theſe Words, *Alcidor's* Heart felt it ſelf melt with Compaſſion, he nevertheleſs made it appear to him that brought them, as if they were altogether indifferent to him, and he at firſt ſent him away without an anſwer, but having conſidered that this was too roughly to handle *Aſtaſia*, he cauſed him to be called back and gave him This.

Alcidor *to* Aſtaſia.

YOu doe me wrong to name the juſt reſentment which I have of Your coldneſs an over ſevere Puniſhment. For if You well conſider how You have ſlighted My Loyal Paſſion, You will acknowledge that had I not taken notice of it, You might deſervedly have named Me inſenſible. You have indeed Conferred Favors upon Me which I have Reaſon to remember with an immortal and an untainted Gratitude, and if I loſt You

You without bidding You Adieu, it is the reſpect that I bare You which Obliged Me to it. would it have been juſt for Me to have gone againſt Your Will, and to have endeavoured by an Opinionative Obſtinacy to have forced You to have granted Me that of which You found me unworthy? No, Madam Alcidor *knows better how to live then ſo, and when it ſhall come to the loſs of his Life, He will never contradict it, if You have Ordained it. But that You may know what an Obſequious Zeal I have for You, only recover your Health and You ſhall ſee by the Continuation of My Services that I Honor You more than all the World beſides.*

Though the illneſs of *Aſtaſia* was very much augmented before her *Page* returned, She never the more forbore, when he preſented theſe Lines to Her, to take and Read them, and She took them, Read them, and thought of them with ſuch Hot and Violent Emotions that her Fever Redounded and put Her in much worſe Condition than She before had been. Of this dangerous Surcharge of Her Diſtemper *Alcidor* ſtaied not long before he was Advertiſed, and after he was Advertiſed of it, laying aſide all other Diſpleaſure but what that

Suggeſted to him, He ſtaied not at all before He went to ſee Her. *Certaſilan* being at Her Bed-ſide when he came into her Chamber, he received him with a handſom Courteſie, thankt him for his Care of viſiting them in their Affliction, and expreſt a great contentment to ſee him, which whither it was as real as it ſeemed great he could not Judge: Howſoever that which *Aſtaſia* derived from the ſight of him was both real and great, it was far more Evident than that he could make any doubt of it; She was Extaſied with it and fell in a Swoon in her Husband's Arms; at which Accident it was Legibly enough written in *Alcidor's* Looks that his heart was not in much better caſe than was that of the Intranced. But the Remedies that were uſed bringing her to her ſelf again (and together with her, her Sympathizer alſo) no ſooner almoſt had She opened her Eyes, but, Sir, ſaid *Certaſilan* to him, our Company doth my Wifes Health an Injury, let us therefore, if you pleaſe, leave her for the Preſent and return to her when She is in a better Capacity. If I knew my ſelf ſo unhappy, Replied *Alcidor* to him, as to increaſe the illneſs of thoſe whom I Viſit, rather than doe them that Miſchief, I would all my

Life

Life forbid my self the sight of them, and since you are of the Opinion that my Presence brings a Detriment to your Lady, I leave both her and your self to your Reposes. By this his Reply *Certafilan* perceiveing that what he had said had too sharply Prickt him, he endeavoured by Excuses and Blandishments to heal the hurt that he had made, but whatsoever Skill he used in the Endeavour he could not hinder him from going away in Displeasure.

The Lover was indeed from this time, putting all things into the Ballance together, so Ill satisfied with the Husbands humour, that to give it no more Umbrage he resolved, not only to go no more to his House, but also to deface out of his Soul all those Draughts which the Beauty of his Wife had Ingraved there. In Favour of this designe he set himself on work to survey the more lovely Faces of *Paquin*, that so by their Variety or by the Prevalency of some one of them he might be brought to forget that which he had a while adicted himself to, but which now he wholly quitted to its Uncommunicative Proprietary: and of all, which in that his Copious Prospect came under his Consideration, he was not long before he concluded *Carmelia* the most wor-

ny of his Vows. That therefore he might have Liberty of Visiting her without suspi-on he tyed himself in so straight a friendship with her Husband *Clidantus* that there was hardly in all the Court to be seen its Parallel. By which means he and that Fair having a Frequent Converse, if his glowing heats for her soon grew to a burning Fever of Passion, She also quickly began to languish with a Disease which made her as much need him for her Physician as he did her for his.

These new Loves knocking at *Astasia's* Eares, She was so far from Frowning upon them, that She with Smiles and from her heart bad them Welcom. Her Sentiments were indeed since her Sickness turned so contrary to what they had before been, that in the place of Amorous Passion She had nothing any longer for *Alcidor* but an Amicable care of his good. When the Forces of his Merit at any time Assaulted her, She by the Rules and helps of Prudent Vertue so Resolutely and Dextrously defended herself against them that they could gain nothing upon her more than to make her admire in the Creature the Creators Magnificence. When She thought of what had past between them, I should be ready to

ſuſpect, ſaid ſhe to her ſelf, that *Alcidor* would throw Dirt upon my Name, but that I am ſtrongly aſſured that he hath more both of Wiſdom and Generoſity then to Defame a Woman who hath by more than Ordinary Reſpects Obliged him to her. Beſides what Credit would he get in leading a Triumph over my Weakneſs and ſetting up Trophies of an Advantage which my little reſiſtance enabled him to acquire? Only Glorious Victories are to be publiſhed and not ſuch as diſgrace both the Vanquiſhed and Vanquiſher together. Yet let us Write to him to let him ſee that I, from my Soul renounce all former Pleaſures, and that I doe ſo becauſe I preferre my happyneſs before my Deſtruction. Accordingly She thus dreſt a Paper and ſent it by *Garinter*.

Aſtaſia *to* Alcidor.

You ought not to take it ill if having Glory to gain by my good Works, I repent of having committed ill ones. We may by reaſon of our Frailty ſometimes fall, but being by the Benigne care of Heaven raiſed up again, it is our Duty inceſſantly to Act thanks to the Author of our Deliverance. This is that wherein I propoſe Sedulouſly to employ my ſelf for the Future, and upon that account

the

the Abode in which I at present as Innocently as Lonesomely lead my Life, is more agreeable to me, than the Palace of our Kings. See how I intend to pass the rest of my Dayes with Certasilan *whose Carriage is become so Unblameable that I have great Reason both to admire his happy Change and to content my self with it.*

Alcidor having read these Tearms was glad to understand that she who wrote them would not disturb his new Affections nor be disturbed by them, and having weighed as well as read them he Drew this Answer to them, and sent it away by him that brought them.

Alcidor *to* Astasia.

I Must be void of a Humane Soul not to approve your Holyness of Life, and though your Graces have made deeper Impressions upon my Mind than I can quickly blot out, I shall notwithstanding endeavour to have no other thoughts of them than such as my Conscience may in Justice allow. See, Madam, if in whatsoever Condition you are I have not a serious Ambition of satisfying you: Nor am I so much an Enemy to mine own Happyness as

nor

not to go in search of it by a Life which shall suddenly conform it self to yours.

Carinter gone *Alcidor* went to *Carnelia* who waited for him to go along with her to see her Husband at the Waters. Being alone when he entred her Chamber, It is indeed, Sir, said she to him, a very Liberal expression of your Goodness that at my Husbands Intreaty you will Accompany me to the Place to which you have so lately given a Title by the Kind and Noble Rape which you Acted there: But not finding her there whom you carried thence every Minute of your stay, will be an houre of tediousness to you. There being no Object in the World so Amiable to me, nor Company so dear as you. Madam, replied *Alcidor* to her, Judge again and say if I shall not account the Dayes which I shall pass in your Presence shorter than houres, but also sweeter than Moneths spent any where else. We know you are an excellent Artist of Rallery, interrupted him, *Carnelia*, without being thus informed of it, but remember that you in earnest wrong *Astasia*, when you though only in jest use Courtship to any other Woman. Let us speak no more of *Astasia*, returned *Alcidor*, for she

is

is no more to be reckoned of the World, having withdrawn and ſhut her ſelf up in a Solitude for the remainder of her Life. That ſo Conſpicuous a Starre as *Aſtaſia*, ſaid *Carmelia* again, ſhould of her own choiſe leave the clear and eminent Orb of the Court, where her Siſter alſo moves with moſt prevailing Splendors and Influences, and for altogether betake herſelf to the obſcure Station of a Rural Privacy is a ſtory of much more Rarity and Wonder than that I ſhould eaſily believe it, did any other but your ſelf tell me it. I never ſpake any thing more true, ſaid *Alcidor*: And I never heard any thing more ſtrange, ſaid *Carmelia*, more ſtrange, adjoyned ſhe, than that the Fair can live content in a ſeparation from *Alcidor* who is looked upon as her Heart and Soul. I know not, ſaid *Alcidor*, what Immaginations thr World hath either of her or me; but this I can faithfully aſſure you, our Converſation was never but very innocent and unblameable, and I conveighed her not away but with the King's Approbation. I am not about, returned *Carmelia*, to make an ill Judgment of her, whom, notwithſtanding that her Husbands jealouſie hath made more than a few of the Oppinion that you have had an abſolute

abſolute Power over her and governed her according to your Mind, I have always believed to be entirely ſage and to have ſteered her Converſation with an unreproachable Diſcretion. *Certaſilan* himſelf, ſaid *Alcidor*, hath by the change of his Mind, loudly confeſt the injuſtice of thoſe ſuſpicions which he had of her Vertue, and their reconciliation makes it ſufficiently appear that it was nothing but his undiſerved miſtruſtfulneſs and headlong Frenzy which carried him to treat her ſo ill as he did, and nothing but his treating her ſo ill that cauſed her to take that courſe that ſhe did. And indeed, adjoyned *Carmelia*, whatſoever ignorant or over Critical People may ſay, I am altogether of the Mind that a Woman is very excuſeable in doing what may be thought diſreſpectful to her Husband, when he without any apparent reaſon but out of a Giddy Undiſcerning Raſhneſs, or an Exceptious Peeviſh Diſpoſition, paſſeth a Contumelious Sentence upon her honeſty. Not but that I know that the greateſt part of the Men of this Age are poſſeſt with the immagination that the more Fair a Woman is, the leſs Chaſt ſhe is, as if Nature never formed a Perſon more than uſually handſom, but to be more than com-

commonly Vitious. This is, ſaid *Alcidor*, one of the groſſeſt abuſes that a Mind can poſſibly be ſeduced with, and I cannot think that any Man will leave himſelf to the ſurprize of it, Who is not ſo much a Fool that he knows not how to diſtinguiſh between deſert and default. For what appearance does it carry of Truth that Organs well diſpoſed in an Elegant Body ſhould be ſubject to act leſs Vigorouſly in what is good than what is placed in a body of a meaner Faſhion, eſpecially conſidering that they whoſe form challengeth a Veneration for them have far more Advantages and Encouragements to do well than they who being expoſed to contempt by their outſides have little care taken of them and can procure little regard to be had, either to their Perſons or their Actions. Of your Mind is my Husband, ſaid *Carmelia*, and I have often heard him ſay that the more beautiful he ſaw a Woman, the more he eſteemed her Retained and ſober. I have, howſoever, Madam, reſumed *Alcidor*, for a long time obſerved it to be true, that there is ſcarce any evil that rageth with ſo wild a Violence, that ſo hardly admits of a remedy, and that produces ſuch ſad and diſmal effects as does the poyſon of jealouſie, eſpecially

when

when drunk in by a Man of Quallity and Stomach; all Theatres are died with the Bloud of its Tragœdies, To ſuch a height of Fury indeed, ſaid *Carmelia*, does this Malady uſe to carry him whom it poſſeſſes that rarely he can be cured but either by his own death or that of the Perſon at whom he takes offence. But, thanks to my kind Deſtiny, I have a Husband of whom I have not the leaſt fear that he ſhould ever be infected with this ſo miſcheivouſly fatal Plague. We ſee much ſtranger things come to paſs, ſaid *Alcidor*, than that there ſhould be ſome Vaſſal of your Beauty who ſhould pay homage to it otherwiſe (though Vertuouſly too) than *Clidantus* ſhould think convenient. But ſhould there be ſome ſuch Man (as what Husband can hinder another Man from honoring his Wife above all other Women?) and *Clidantus* ſhould not only take it ill, but alſo interdict you his company, What in that caſe would you reſolve upon? Not to ſee the Perſon that might be ſuſpected by him, anſwered *Carmelia*, that ſo I might remove from him all argument of afflicting himſelf and me. Would you then, ſaid *Alcidor*, commit ſuch an injuſtice as to ſlight them that honored you in favour of a diſtruſtful quarrelſome

ſome Husband? I could not be accuſed of any injuſtice, or of any ſlighting in doing ſo, replied *Carmelia*, becauſe I did it not but by conſtraint and out of neceſſary conſiderations of my Repoſe, my Reputation and my Duty. I ſhould indeed reckon that it behoved me to put in practice all the expedients which I could have any hope would reſtore to a good temper him who was in ſo ill a one: But if I found them all unavailable, and that he would ſtill perſecute me notwithſtanding all that I could do to oblige him to the contrary, I would no longer make any Difficulty of ſeperating my ſelf from him. So *Aſtaſia*, ſaid *Alcidor*, cannot be in equity blamed for quitting *Certaſilan* when ſhe ſaw that by nothing that either ſhe her ſelf or others could either ſay or do he would be reſtrained from abuſing her, and if you at any time ſhould do the like, forct to it as ſhe was, your Vertue will appear not at all the leſs, ſince reaſonably one cannot diſlike unfortunates for ſeeking to affranchize themſelves from their preſſures. If I have ſpoken any thing to the diſadvantage of *Aſtaſia*, ſaid *Carmelia*, you have cauſe to reprehend me for it; but tell me, I intreat you, what cauſe you have to imagine that a wiſe Man as is *Clidantus* and

that

that loves me with all his heart as he does ſhould ever turn Fool as did *Certaſilan*, and by his unmerciful perſecution of me, ſhould drive me to tread the ſame path that did *Aſtaſia*. As I have not Beauty nor other alectives, ſo no beliefe that any Man can have ſuch regards for me, as that thence his fancy ſhould have any thing of ſhaddow to vex it ſelf about. How in ſaying ſo, Madam, interrupted her *Alcidor*, do you wrong heaven together with your ſelf diſowning the abundant wealth of Graces which its goodneſs hath beſtowed upon you. But I muſt beg leave farther to tell you that as you are at a great diſtance lovely above others, ſo you are very far above others beloved. I am one that love you ſo, and the chains which fetter my heart in this Affection are embodied into it and grown a much dearer part of it than that I ſhould be willing to part with them for all the Freedom with which the World can tempt me. You are come I ſee, interrupted him *Carmelia* not ſo much to give me your Company as to make your ſelf ſport in jeering me. It is ſurely no making my ſelf ſport, nor jeering of you, returned *Alcidor*, to ſpeak highly of that which every body that knows you prizes highly, and tell you that I adore you as with a moſt

Profound reverence I do, I am come to wait upon you in your journey; and withall to gain an opportunity of declaring to you that my paſſion, which hath a great while been kept in by the awe in which I ſtand of you, but which now breaks its way out by its own greatneſs and force. If the diſcovery have any thing criminal in it, inflict upon me what puniſhment you ſhall think fit, I ſhall make no appeal from your ſentence, ſo long as I know that my Torment contents you. Know then, ſaid *Carmelia*, to what I condemn you; It is to live with me as you have been wont without ſpeaking to me of Love or Paſſion, it being certain that you are either free from them, or if their ſtroke hath reacht you, it is by the vertue of *Aſtaſia's* Merrit, not of mine, which I am conſcious is too weak to take the meaneſt and moſt facile heart Priſoner, much leſs is it able to ſubdue yours. To theſe words *Alcidor* making anſwer, firſt with moſt Eloquent ſighs and ſilence, then with moſt earneſt and winning proteſtations, that his heart was all an entire piece of Devotion to her and to none but her; ſhe changed her ſtile and told him that becauſe ſhe would put him to no more trouble ſhe would endeavour to believe what he had ſaid. Encouraged with this conceſſion, he imprinted

a flaming Kiss upon her hand, which she not discountenancing, he industriously pursued his point with other Galantryes, and for his success evidently read it in her looks and silence that she was very well pleased with them, but withall as much ashamed as pleased.

After she had sat a while without speaking a word to him, or so much as looking him in the face, seeing Paper with Pen and Ink upon the Table she took the Pen and wrote, *I Love*, and then, he looking to to see what she wrote, let drop the Pen, and fell a sighing. All which he took notice of, and better understanding the advantage of the occasion than to let it slip, he intreated her to set down the rest of her thought: to which she answering that it was without design, that that word came to hand. He again so earnestly prest her to proceed, telling her that she was too judicious to begin to write, what she had no mind to finish, and that the beginning was too good to remain imperfect, that she resumed the Pen and compleated the Sentence in these termes, *I Love Alcidor, if he be Discreet*. Having this short, but acceptable line, she broke out into straines of Joy, Thanks and Love, in which he who was at other times wont to

excell others, now Farre excelled himself. To repart to them, the Lady thought herself concerned to use such Language as this, I confess it is not without Reason that every one esteems you, *Alcidor*; you have powerful means to render your self Master of hearts, it is not now the first time that I knew it, and since the Princess *Floriſa*, and the sweet *Aſtaſia* hath been overcome by, and been glad to yeild to those your Powers, it cannot surely be ill thought of if I also am surprized by them. If what therefore you have told me is true, all my Life shall witness that what I have now written is certain. I confess I love you, but I withall expect that a vertuous retainedness should have the guidance of your carriage towards me, and if otherwise you at any time prove so unsober as to desire of me, things which my honor permits me not to give you, assure your self you shall carry away nothing of ill intensions, but a denial stamp with indignation; for I love my Husband, my Honesty, aud my Reputation better than to do any thing that may prejudice any of them. Your decree is juster, Madam, replied *Alcidor*, than that I should in the least go against it; and I am more effectually yours, than to cease to be so by enterprises disagreeable

to

to you. Having ſtopt a little at thoſe words, I acknowledge, Madam, went he on, that you may with equity defend me from aſpiring to thoſe Bliſſes, which you have in your power to beſtow, but which are too great for the greateſt, and of which they who have moſt worth are unworthy: yet let your charity allow, as it unblameably may, that upon this beautiful Mouth of Roſes, and this fair Boſom of Lillies (together with theſe words he kiſt them both) I proteſt before Love himſelf, that I will hence forward have no other will but yours. This on-ſet of Love, gracefully conducted as it was, *Carmelia* not having the Power to take it ill, That I may not ſhew my ſelf ſo ſevere, ſaid ſhe, in ſome confuſion of affection and modeſty, as to deny you what I may honeſtly grant you, I permit you this familiarity of Kiſſes, provided they be innocent and free from impurity; but this is the greateſt perſonal kindneſs that you are to expect from me, and that great enough to let you clearly ſee, I love you to a high degree. The priviledge, Madam, returned *Alcidor*, is of a much Nobler value, than that in the frution of it I ſhould not own my ſelf a moſt wealthy Man of happyneſs. More he was going to ſay, but *Felisbea* coming

into the Chamber interrupted their converſe, and they had at that time no more opportunity of diſcourſeing of any thing, but the journey which they were about to make together. They nevertheleſs expreſt their hearts to one another by ſigns as Emphatical as words, and having broken their Faſts, and taken the Road, they there alſo, though that Siſter of *Clidantus* not a little obſtructed their deerneſſes, frequently tranſmitted them by ſtealth to one another, without being at all perceived by her.

Having nothing by the way that moleſted them and *Alcidor* all along holding diſcourſes with which a very bad humour would have been diverted, they got happily to their Journey's end, and therefore alſo the more happily becauſe their arrival gave a very ſenſible mitigation to the illneſs of *Clidantus*; he ſhewed himſelf more revived by the ſight of them, and particularly of *Alcidor*, than it could be imagined his condition was capable of; and during eight dayes after their comming he carried it out well: But he was ſo ſick the ninth that his Phyſicians began to deſpiar of his recovery, and he afterwards for many dayes laboured under pains which rendred his life a burthen to him, and which though *Carmelia* entirely

tirely loved *Alcidor* infected her with ſo much trouble that not he whom ſhe loved ſo much, could with all his conſolatory endeavours put aſtop to her tears. In this his condition *Felisbea* took a juſt and a kind Sitter's part but not ſo much as that uncommon tenderneſs which ſhe had alwayes for him would have prompted her to have taken, had her mind been at liberty; but it was called off from ſympathizing with *Clidantus* by being continually taken up in admireing *Alcidor*. After ſhe had admired him a while ſhe grew big with Love of him, and then reſtleſly ſolicitous that he ſhould have anſwerable reſpects for her. So much he ſaw by (beſides other deports) the ſighs and languiſhing regards which upon all his motions ſhe ſent after him. But his inclinations carrying his heart with too rappid a current to *Carmelia*, to ſuffer him to think of *Felisbea* as ſhe deſired, he deſſembled his underſtanding of what he ſaw, and whatever contrivances ſhe uſed (as ſhe uſed ſeveral) to make him know her mind, and conform to it, he carried himſelf as if he was wholly ignorant of their meaning. This added very much to her anxiety and he who was the occaſion of it, was enough convinced that he was ſo, but made ſhew

of believeing that it was all upon the account of her Brother. When therefore she had sufficiently wearied her self with sighing for him, who would not rightly intereſt himself in it, She perſwaded her self that it was requiſite without any thing of diſguiſe, to lay her heart open before him, and ſhe had preſently made her own mouth her agent, and Interpreter of it to him, had not that great portion which ſhe had of honor and Sageneſs reſtrained her from it. It was not with a wanton Eye that ſhe looked upon him, the mark at which ſhe aimed was Marriage, that which he never yet ſhot at, and full of Vertue as ſhe was, ſhe would rather have hugged death than have harbored a thought unworthy of it. But yet withall her deſires of haveing him for her Husband, had too much Fire in them, to be kept from venting themſelves to him and ſeeking to have the Fuel of his kindneſs to feed upon. Screwed up by their urgencies, to a confidence far above her temper, ſhe took the firſt opportunity of being with him, and as ſhe was going from him, without his percieveing her, let drop at his feet a Paper, which, his Eye quickly lighting upon it and his curioſity prompting him to take it up and peruſe it, he found to have theſe breif con-

tents

tents: Alcidor's *qualities are all ravishing and unless one be Marble, one cannot consider him without being wounded for him. If he is not sensible of this, he is not acquainted with himself; his only fault is that he hath an aversion to Marriage which the affections of others and his own Merit and Interests demand of him.*

He was at no pains to know whose this note was, he was too well accquainted with the mind and hand of *Felisbea* not to be certain that it was hers. He was therefore not a little perplext how he should carry himself towards her, but at length he resolved to coverse with her as formerly without taking any notice to her of the writing, but shunning all occasions that might bring him into a particular engagement with her. Going in this mind to her Brothers Chamber where he knew she was, he was no sooner in her Eye, but she was all dyed with blushes and lost in shame. Observing which Emotion, he made no shew that he observed it, but, after he had askt *Clindatus* how he did, entred into a discourse with him and his Lady. She having by that means leisure of recollecting herself, after a few minutes came and sat upon the Bed-side by him, listning to his words as to harmonious Oracles,

and

and conſidering his perſon and faſhion as ſomething more than humane. They had not ſat above a quarter of an hour, but there entred viſiters to the ſick Man; to let whom come up to him, *Alcidor* and *Felisbea* drew back and fell into a converſation by themſelves. At the inſtant the clouds of *Felisbea*'s homor diſperſed, and ſhe grew more gay than uſually, encouraged by an expectation that *Alcidor* would entertain her about her Paper. But this was far from his intentions, and he only entertained himſelf with her about her Brother and the company that was come in; in which terms they were when *Clidantus* called him to him, to take part in a diſcourſe of rallery which a Lady of very good Ingenij had begun with deſign of diverting him.

Divided from *Alcidor* and diſappointed of her hopes *Felisbea* withdrew in diſtraction to her Chamber, where having wept a ſtoud ſhe broke out into ſuch language as this. No, No, *Felisbea*, it is in vain that thou ſtriveſt to captivate this heard-hearted inſenſible Man. Canſt thou any longer queſtion that he ſlights thee? Comeſt thou not from having too experimentall a proof of it? If he made never ſo little reckoning of thee, would he treat thee with ſo much cold

cold indifferency? If thy Note which thou ſaweſt him take up had pleaſed him, would he have been kept from ſpeaking of it to thee? would he have made ſhew of knowing nothing of it? He took it and read it, but not liking what he read, he would feign himſelf ignorant of what he too well knows. It is a folly for thee think to make him thine; he is too much *Aſtaſia's*, and her attractions hold too abſolute a Monarchy over him to let him be any other Womans.

While *Felisbea* was in ſuch terms with herſelf *Clorangius* entred her Chamber with the Meſſage that he came to fetch her to her Mother who it was feared, was dying, a Meſſage which made the tears trickle down her cheeks afreſh, but that as much for ſorrow that ſhe muſt leave *Alcidor*, as, though ſhe loved *Dolinda* as ſhe was in duty bound, out of a ſence that ſhe was in danger of looſing her. *Alcidor* was indeed grown an inſeparable requiſite to her ſatisfaction; ſhe therefore deferred her journey as long as ſhe could, but at laſt with wet eyes and troubled heart bad adieu to him, *Clidantus* and *Carmelia*.

If ſhe was extreamly diſcontented at her going away; *Alcidor* was as glad of it, conſidering that as long as ſhe had ſtayed he could

could never have come near *Carmelia* without finding her with her, and the ſame day that ſhe went taking the advantage of her abſence he and *Carmelia*, while *Clidantus* ſlept walkt into a little wood, private and thick which joyned to the Garden of their Houſe: Here haveing ſeated themſelves as conveniently as they could upon the Moſſy root of a well ſpread Oak, and haveing no more dangerous witneſſes to fear than the Birds and trees, they entred into a mutually endearing converſation, and proceeded from one kindneſs to another, untill they ſeemed at ſtrife which of them ſhould ſhew moſt, and till *Alcidor* began to argue with himſelf from *Carmelia's* freeneſs that ſhe had ſo warm a Paſſion for him, that if he would but take the confidence to try, ſhe might be brought to grant him what in colder modeſty ſhe had forbidden him to aſpire to. While ſuch thoughts paſt up and down in his mind, ſhe who ſuſpected nothing of them, but was willing to indulge as much to his and her own affections as ſhe thought, ſhe well might, without infringing her duty to *Clidantus*, and the rules of decency, curled his locks and kiſt his forehead with little leſs allurement than if ſhe had a mind to dreſs a party againſt her Chaſtity. Confirmed by theſe

her

her more innocently intended dalliances in the opinion that if ſhe was importuned ſhe would not refuſe him that which places a Lover at the top of his happineſs, and interpreting the amorous wishly regards which he obſerved ſhe caſt upon him as a ſummons to make uſe of that conveniency of the place for the performance of what he had a mind to, he had his flames ſo animated that thinking no longer of any thing but quenching them (with thoſe delights which have the Vertue both of quenching and re-accending the thirſt of Love) he ſolicited her to what was ſo diſagreeable to her, that ſtarting up from the place where ſhe was ſet and looking as pale as if ſhe had recieved ſome blow that made her heart fail, How, *Alcidor*, ſaid ſhe to him; dare you entertain me with ſo foul a baſeneſs, a baſeneſs which unſpeakably aſtoniſhes and offends me together? Think you that to gratifie your brutiſhneſs I will betray my honeſty? Go make your prayers to luſtful women; it is at their temples that you muſt addreſs your offerings. With theſe words fetching a deep ſigh and on a ſudden growing as red as ſhe was before pale, ſhe haſtily turned to go away: but *Alcidor* who read his delinquency in her face and carriage and expreſt his penitential diſtraction in his

own

own, held her by the Mantle and throwing himself at her feet, I acknowledg, Madam, said he to her, that the cholar that you are in is no greater than is just and reasonable: but if there be any thing in the universe that hath influence upon your spirit, I by it beseech you to pardon the unruly violence of the passion which I have for you; It is that which having deprived me of my reason hath been the cause of my impudence; and if nothing else will satisfie you, I have not a drop of bloud with which I am not ready to explate it. No, No, interrupted she him, I have no body to blame but my self who have too lightly and foolishly permitted you familiarities which have made you hope as easily to obtain the spoyls of my Chastity. But undeceive your self, *Alcidor*, and know that I should much more cheerfully love to dye than consent (as you immagine I might be induced to do) to the ruine of my honor. I am sensible, Madam, replied *Alcidor*, that my crime, though it have love for its complice, is of a very deep and ugly stain, but my repentance, if any repentance can be so, is answerable to it. I again therfore beg by all that you hold good and dear to pardon me, and I beg you not to do it, but upon condition, that if ever I fall back into the

same

ſame ſin, you baniſh me for ever from your favour without leaving me the leaſt hope of Mercy. Overcome with theſe words and other teſtimonies of remorſe which he expreſt in a plain and large Character, ſince I have reaſon to believe, returned ſhe to him, that you are really troubled for the offence that you have given me, forbear troubling your ſelf any farther, I fully pardon you, but withall, I lay an indiſpenſable charge upon you, that you no more go againſt the law which I have by the Obligation of Vertue neceſſarily preſcribed you. I confeſs I love you entirely, but if you imagine you ſhall be ever able to draw from me more than what I have told you I will allow you; know I ſhall run to my grave rather than bring a blot upon the integrity of my life. As for our wonted Careſſes Provided you proceed not to unlawful propoſitions I will allow you them as heretofore, but if by allowing you them you again encourage your ſelf to abuſe me, aſſure your ſelf you will oblige me to hate you as much as I love you. I farther eſteem my ſelf very happy in being at preſent alone with you, but leaſt any ill ſhould be ſuſpected of us, let us return to *Clidantus*, who poſſibly may awake and ſend about in ſearch of us if he finds us not by him. To this he having

replied

replied with very ingenious acknowledgments of her goodneſs, they ſealed their reconciliation with ſome warm kiſſes, and paſt next way out of the wood to *Clidantus* his Chamber, where when they firſt came in they found him aſleep, but he preſently awakened and ſignified himſelf very well pleaſed to ſee them about him.

It being a Month after this before his Phyſicians could with their beſt diligence advance his Recovery to any conſiderable paſs they in that time enjoy'd all the contentments with one another that in the tye which limited them and in the place where they were they could ſoberly expect, and in the enjoyment of them *Carmelia's* affection grew to ſuch a height that ſhe began to ſee by its effects that to love her lover more, ſhe loved her Husband leſs. This enormity ſhe made very aſſiduous effects to overcome, but as often as ſhe made them, ſhe ſo often experienced that the more ſhe reſiſted, the more the forces which ſhe had to fight againſt, increaſed, and deſires continually ſprung up in her mind which were altogether contrary to her will and which made her wholly aſhamed of her ſelf, but which her reaſon ſetting it ſelf to oppoſe there was alwayes ſomething which obtained the victory againſt it.

While

While she was in this rout, which, though she could not rectifie, she very discreetly concealed: her Husband by the advice of his Physicians resolved to return to *Laquia*; that which *Alcidor* liked very well both because he loved the abode of the Court, and because he made no question of having more liberty with *Carmelia* there than where they now were, and that which was now by his furtherance of it quickly put in execution.

The next day after they were come to the Royal City. *Alcidor* going, under colour of visiting *Clidantus*, to see *Carmelia*, found *Felisbea* with them, whom he saluting with civility enough, and a kiss which had more of manners than heat in it, but which however so much dissolved and drew out her heart that she could hardly defend her self from falling in a swoon, the same desires repullulated in her soul which had not long since agitated it, and her humour withall shewed it self dresst in lighter colours than it had for a long time been seen in. Of which latter *Carmelia* taking notice, but not understanding the ground, thought it sprung from the pleasure which she received in seeing her Brother recovered together with her Mother. *Alcidor* knew better how to judge of it, but thought not fit to alter the Opi-

nion of the one by discovering the affection of the other. But in whatsoever cheerful temper she was at first after their return, and with whatsoever illness she was afterwards struck, four dayes after she took her Bed, and eight dayes after she was laid in her Grave.

She was a Sister whom *Clidantus* loved as himself: the separation therefore workt so sharply upon him that it renewed his old illness, and the ralapse had so ill a look that it made his Physicians look for nothing good to come of it. They telling his Lady their thoughts, she called up all her constancy to expect and bear with patience the feared event; and she had withall *Alcidors* advises and comforts to assist her in that occasion: but they were neither of them so effectual, but after some days a humor spreading it self through the sick mans Body which took away the use of his Limbs, her grief wanted but little of proveing as mortal to her as his Palsey was likely to do to him. But her former Physician taking in hand the cure of it, it by little and little decreas'd, that which was the cause of it at the same time growing every day worse than other.

Six *Moons* having filled and emptied themselvs, and all the arts that were used and pains

pains that were taken with *Clidantus* (and all were uſed and taken that could be thought expedient) ſerving only to prove that his Diſeaſe was incurable, *Alcidor*, who had for the moſt part of that time been employed by the King in expeditions of War, finding him in this condition at his return reſolved to draw all the advantage out of it that he could, and, as his paſſion for *Carmelia* flamed higher than ever, to make more preſſing declarations of it to her than ever, ſerving himſelf therefore of the opportunity, he entertained her with regrets for the illneſs of *Clidantus*, with laments for her affliction, and with complaints of his own unhappineſs, which brought thick clouds over her eyes and preſently a large ſhower out of them. That done he turned to his ſtile to Gallantries and the Amæneſt Themes; he painted his fires to her with moſt lively and withall moſt Venuſt draughts, he with the moſt moving Rhetorick that he could weave repreſented to her how unreaſonable it was that her florid youth and Beauty ſhould be intombed in Melancholy, and what vivid, generous and elevated contentments thoſe Lovers have who intirely and without reſerve addict themſelves to one another: and his ſucceſs was that the air of her

looks and deportment changed from gloomy to ſerene, that from the picture which he made her of his fires ſhe not only fancied that ſhe ſaw them and felt them burn, but alſo really contracted ſympathetick heats, more moveing than ſhe ever before had felt, and that ſhe let him ſee as much, as alſo that ſhe approved of what he ſaid, by complying with him more liberally than ever, and careſſing him more profuſely. Perceiveing how he gained ground of her he ſtopt not there but followed her cloſe with profeſſions, Blandiſhments, Arguments, Promiſes, and by their importunate and inſinuating faſcinations wound himſelf at length, as into the chief room of her heart, ſo into that place in her Arms, which *Clidantus* only was wont to hold, but was now no longer capable of holding. Not but that ſhe ſtill retained for that bed-rid Man thoſe officious reſpects which were due to him from his Wife and with a tender compaſſion painfully edeavoured his eaſe and releif. It was the ſame compaſſion, though ſhe might have ſome thoughts that of *Clidantus* his Widdow ſhe ſhould become *Alcidor's* Wife, which compelled her ſometimes to joyn with him in the Prayers which he made, that ſince he could expect no other remedy

death

death would be his Physician and releaſe him. his life was indeed drawn out with ſo much torment that it was a true kindneſs to him to wiſh the thred of it cut of, and that *Dolinda* her ſelf who had brought him into the VVorld continually deſired to ſee him go out of it. He having continued ſix months longer in this ſad condition the wiſhes of himſelf and his Friends were granted, his Soul taking wing and leaving his Body to be laid to bed in the Earth, that which his Lady took care to have done with a magnificence which purchaced her a great Name, and with tears which were her witneſſes that though ſhe had ſometimes in conſideration of his miſery wiſht him in his Grave, ſhe would have been very ready to have fetcht him out of it.

Clidantus gone, *Alcidor* and *Carmelia* lived in *Paquin* in a coreſpondence of which there would have been good reaſon to have admired the ſweetneſs, if there had not been ſome occaſion to have diſtruſted the innocence. The intimacy of it bringing the Ladie's vertue into ſuſpition, the Ladies who were wont to frequent her company, by little and little forbore viſiting her. Not able to overlook which diſreſpect, or to queſtion the ground upon which they

built it, ſhe took occaſion to ſpeak of it to *Alcidor*, that ſo ſhe might clear her conſcience and engage him to remove her diſreputo by the Marriage which ſhe daily expected from him: And he fed her expectation with promiſes fitted to her palate, but withal, having no mind to come under the yoke, which ſhe would have put upon him, he determined to diſengage himſelf from her as ſoon as handſomly he could. To effect what he had determined, he concluded with himſelf to go paſs ſome Moneths in one of his country Houſes, but to her he pretended that the King had commanded him upon his ſervice into a remote Province, that which ſhe eaſily believed, in regard of the equipage which ſhe ſaw him provide for his departure, and he withall perſwaded her to retire from the Court and live privately in the Country during his abſence, that which ſhe readily conſented to. All things being prepared for the ſeparation and the day come, he ſaw the grief with which ſhe reſented it flow with ſo large a ſtream in her Eyes, and he had in his own breaſt ſuch a reluctancy to it that he was upon the point of deſiſting from his purpoſe, and of reſolving not to leave her: But conſidering

that

that if he ſtayed with her any longer he muſt either unworthily abuſe or elſe Marry her, from both which he had many reaſons that diſſwaded him, he enforced himſelf to go on with what he had undertaken, and what he ſaw neceſſary, though harſh. After therefore they had both ſighed enough, they bad the Court and one another farewel, he takeing his way, and ſhe hers.

Come into his Province, *Alcidor* by the Proofs which he gave of his qualities made all other the brighteſt Perſonages appear to him but as glimmering Stars to the Sun in blaze, and like a Miracle drew all eyes and affections after him. But he who made all that ſaw him in love with him, could not keep himſelf from being in love with another. He ſaw ſhine a beauty, which (when he had examined Eyes, Face, Shape, Aire, Port, all) he could wiſh nothing either added to or taken from, and which, as the Sun puts out all leſſer lights and fires, extinguiſht in his mind the glories not only of *Floriſa* and *Aſtaſia* but of *Carmelia* alſo, and brought in the incomparable *Dorame* to rule there alone. This young Widow who was iſſued of one of the beſt Houſes of *China* appeared to him to have ſo much of divine in her, that he without any ſcruple ſacrificed to her his

whole heart, and that with a different devotion from what he had formerly paid at Femal ſhrines. It ſeemed altogether unjuſt to him not to love her with a pure integrity and for all his life, or in loveing her not to build upon Vertue, not to aim at Marriage, not to breath after better things than Voluptuous ſenſual enjoyment. Become thus in a Moment of a Volatile Libertine a conſtant and faithful ſubject of Love, before he made any diſcovery of his intentions he examined his own Birth, Actions and Fortunes, to ſee if theſe were advantages weighty enough to allow him hopes of gaining ſuch a poſſeſſion as was that which he had in his wiſhes, and when indeed he well conſidered what he was, it was impoſſible that the luſtre of his own worth, ſhould caſt his rayes about him without lighting him to ſee that he ſufficiently merited what he had a mind to obtain.

Celebriouſly accompliſht as *Dorame* was, would ſhe from the time that her dear *Cliſidas* expired have entertained propoſals of a ſecond Husband, ſhe might have had the ſame day of his Funerals, to have been that alſo of her Nuptials. More than a few of the higher rank ſought her in Mariage, and this her new Paſſionate was not ignorant of;

but

but there was no body whom he feared but her whom he loved, and nothing that he cared for but to make her love him. But before that he by any ſuites or declarations to her delivered his mind of that with which it was big, he thought it beſt often to viſit her, and every time that he viſited her, as he found in her Wit, Humour, Faſhion, Form, ſome new occaſion of admiring her and of coveting her with impatience for his Wife, ſo the generouſneſs and ſweetneſs of his diſpoſition, the equability and moderation of his temper, the Elegancy and ſublimeneſs of his Ingenij, the graceſulneſs of his Perſon and carriage, and the great Civility or rather Devotion of his reſpectfulneſs to her, more and more nouriſht and augmented that kind eſteem which from her firſt knowledge of him ſhe had conceived for him, ſo that before it was long, if ſhe had at any time any thoughts of being re-married, it was only to *Alcidor*, that which would have made him account himſelf a moſt happy Man had he been acquainted with it, but ſhe very watchfully concealed it from him.

From theſe ſame frequent viſits that he made to her and other obſervables of his actings, thorgh he had told his own ſoul only the zeal which he had of applying himſelf

ſelf to her a ſervant of love, people generally argued a probabilty of it, his competitors in particular conceived ſo ſtrong an opinion of it, that they all ſuperſeded from waiting upon her, ſome affraid of meaſuring Swords with him, others knowing that they could not meaſure Deſerts with him. He would have been better contented that ſome of the moſt gallant of them ſhould have continued firm in their purſuite, that ſo they diſputeing the prize with him, his Victory (or fall) might have been the more illuſtrious. But ſeeing them all forſake the liſts of her ſervice he one day took occaſion to ſpeak of it to her.

He having upon which ſubject ſaid what he thought convenient, It is my ill fortune returned ſhe to him, which will have them in the Series of my Converſation obſerve my want of Merit, and then withdraw that they may looſe no more time in remarking in me defects which oblige them to fly from me inſtead of following me. And you, Sir, added ſhe, after you have known me a while will Judge it neceſſary to do the like. What wayes one may invent, cryed *Alcidor*, interrupting her, to reproach the greateſt excellencies under Heaven! The reaſons why they quit you, Madam, continued

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he with a low reſpect, is becauſe they are ſenſible that the zeal with which I adore you is abundantly ſtronger, purer and more faithful than theirs, and therefore, though it hath no Merit in it ſelf, yet, in compariſon with theirs, deſerves to be better received and recompens'd: And imagine not, for you will be unjuſt if you do ſo, that I have ſo diſtemper'd a ſpirit as ever to imitate thoſe extravagants who meet their ſhame in their inconſtancy.

This diſcourſe comming a little unexpectedly, but very acceptably to her from him for whom ſhe had more affection than ever ſhe had for any, her beloved *Clicidas* excepted; In earneſt, Sir, replied ſhe preſently, you have a very ingenious art, and you are very induſtrious in uſing it to make your ſelf ſport with thoſe abſents and with me; and you would perſwade me into a ſtrange belief, ſhould I give up my ſelf to hearken to you: but as little diſcretion as I have, I have ſo much as to underſtand your flatteries and to know what ear and credit I am to give them. If *Alcidor* loves, it is not *Dorame* that he loves, he aſpires to things more exalted, and Princeſſes, not ſuch as I, are the objects of his Vows. I wiſh no more, Madam, replied *Alcidor* to her, than that my ſatisfacti-

ſatisfaction depended upon the truth of this, that I think there is nothing humane to which I can aſpire more exalted than your ſelf; and that is my next Religion under what I ow to Heaven to vow and pay to you all that Man can Vow and pay to Woman. For Heaven knows that, though I have ſtayed till now to tell you ſo, from the firſt minute that I ſaw you, my breaſt hath been nothing elſe but a region of fires which your beauties kindled, and which burn to you with as fervent and clear a devotion as ever did thoſe upon the *Perſian* Altars to the bright Eye of the World. It is too probable that you account it criminal in me to be a Candidate of thoſe Felicities which *Cliſidas* while he lived enjoyed; but make what judgment of me and diſpoſal you think good, I ſhall never the more ceaſe to pay homage to you and nevertheleſs endeavour to make good the quality of your ſervant.

Having many arguments to believe that theſe words had nothing of cozening paint or artifice in them but were the genuine dictates of his heart wholly given up to her, *Dorame* ſtood ſtill a while pleaſing her ſelf with the acquiſition that ſhe had made, Then if it be true, Sir; returned ſhe that you have that kindneſs for me that you pretend,

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it it also true that I reap a most plentiful honor and advantage by it, and that I should be both very ungratful and very unwise together should I deny it an agreeable reception: and you have for my encouragement the appearance and the estimation of a more generous Man, than to design the abusing a Widow who reckons nothing more recommendable than your vertue or more worthy of an Empire than your accomplishments, and who therefore accounts it a most weighty subject of glory to her to see you stoop to consider her otherwise than she can by any title of her own challenge. You are highly injurious to your self, Madam, replyed he, in disclaiming the pretensions which by the graces of which you are owner you may most rightfully make: As you in complement name me uncapable of a Scepter, I seriously and with good reason esteem you worthy of a Crown. I see I can gain nothing upon you, rejoyned she, your tongue, not to contradict that great opinion that every one hath of you, delighting to shew its Pomp in perswading me more victoriously, that which you would have me believe. There needs no art of words, returned *Alcidor*, to declare a truth so plain as is that of your overtopping worth, its rayes will break through

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the thickeſt veil. I am ſenſible indeed that the more perfection you have and know you have, the leſs hope I can have that you ſhould give to one ſo defective as I am, that place in your heart that I dye for; but yet I cannot chuſe but ſay that if you will conſult the World about your qualities, I am willing you ſhould name me Impoſtor, and treat me as ſuch a one if all that know you do not avow you one of the chiefeſt of thoſe pieces which are matter of Admiration to them. I very well know, anſwered *Dorame*, that only to hear you ſpeak is enough to take away from the eyes and ſpirit of thoſe that hear you, the faculty of judging things as they appear: I will therefore contest no longer with you, as being certain of the conqueſt which you have a mind to win. I yield you that which you at preſent contend for; let us now diſcourſe of ſomething elſe. What can I diſcourſe of to you, repartied *Alcidor*, ſo much to my mind as of the perfections which you have in your ſelf, and of the affections which I have for you? But to obey you I will at preſent ſay no more of either of them, provided that you will promiſe me to believe what I have already ſaid of both. To give you a ſatisfaction, ſaid *Dorame* to him, I agree to what you ask, ſo

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far as my Conſcience of my ſelf will allow me, and I ſhall doubt leſs of your love than of my own merit, ſince you have ſo great a deſire to aſſure me of the former, and I have ſo little reaſon to aſſure my ſelf of the latter. I ſhall indeed be very much at eaſe, Madam, reſumed *Alcidor*, if you will reckon my Paſſion as true, ſerious and great, as it really is, andas I have a deſire to give you teſtimonies that it is; but it wil be with hopes that you wil retaliate it to me, which if I miſs of my eaſe will prove as little as is that of the wounded Man who knows that the Chyrurgion upon whom his recovery depends is ſufficiently acquainted with his wounds, but will not take in hand the Cure of them.

At this Language *Dorame* caſting down her looks and forbearing to anſwer, *Alcidor* threw himſelf upon his knees before her in the faſhion of a Homager, if not a Worſhipper. She ſtooping to raiſe him up, her cheek came ſo near his mouth that tempted with the opportunity he could not forbear touching it with his lips, which (performed as it was with a graceful delicacy) ſhe not ſhewing her ſelf diſpleaſed with, accended with the favour, and willing from that ſtep to derive pretence to another, he roſe and with a new confidence but alſo with a

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reverence not much different from that of Religion made some closer impressions of his lips upon her mouth and eyes, not indeed without being reproved by her for it, but that with a sweet and soft mildness which shewed she could not be much offended with that which was only to be attributed to the excess of his love, and which encouraged him to doe the like, again rather than deterred him from it.

He having after a few days by the endearing engageing powers of his Merit and courtship prevailed with her plainly to accept of his service, their conversation had so much vertuous amœnity and sweetness in it, that it was a great deal of pitty it should have been interrupted; but he was constrained to go to accord a quarrel of which he was made Arbiter, and the law of his charity did them the ill office of separating them, that which they would have accounted yet a worse office, had they not considered that the Adversaries whom he went to reconcile deserved that he should take that pains for them.

Two days after his departure she was surprized in her Chamber by *Rolimon*, *Melian* and *Vindorix*, where this Uncle and Cozens had not stayed long before they told her that they

they had not at preſent made a Journey to her but to ſolicit her to receave for her Husband her old Lover *Cartagenes*, whoſe worth and quallity were no more uuknown to her than were his Love and and ſervices. In anſwer to which ſhe who had taken the retreat of that Cavaleir as well as of her other ſuitors for a ſign, either of a frigid affection or a faulty courage, they having never viſited her ſince *Alcidor* frequented her, freely declared the ill opinion which ſhe had concieved of him as well as of the reſt. *Rolimon* did his endeavour to remove from her this impreſſion, ſpeaking all that he could to the advantage of his friend, but he after all found that it was but labor in vain to go about to replace him in her favour. He ceaſing therefore to alledge any thing more in his behalf, ſhe changed her action and language, and ſuccinctly told them all that had paſt between her and *Alcidor*, ſo handſomely repreſenting to them the Love which he had propounded to her, that they reſented a high delight in hearing it, and earneſtly conſelled her to think of no other Husband. *Alcidor*, ſaid *Rolimon*, beſides that he is of an illuſtrious Bloud, is Maſter of Quallities, altogether uncommon to the World, his Courage maks him feared, his

Courteſie loved, every thing of him admired; he hath gained a reputation of a large extent and a moſt glorious nature; and hath deſerved it as well as gained it; having done as eminent things as ever Man of his age and condition. Riches and Grandeurs do not at all blind him or allure his mind to a higher or more eager flight than becomes him: But had he occaſions of enterprizing things ſatisfactory to the height and magnitude of his ſoul, his Element would be to conquer Kingdoms. A great Princeſs and as fair as great would have made it her glory to have gained him for her Husband, but that ſhe could not diſpoſe of her own will, nor could he conclude it convenient for him to Marry ſo famous a Perſonage. If he loves you, as I have no reaſon to doubt but he does by the teſtimonies that you have given us of it, and your good Fortune brings you to be his Wife, as I have hopes it will, you may with a juſt confidence rank your ſelf among the moſt happy Women of *China*. I know his humour, I am acquainted with his Birth and Education; I underſtand a great part of the motions of his Life, and can therefore ſpeak of him, as I do with aſſurance. You ſpeak too much on his ſide, Sir, ſaid *Dorame*, not to make him appear amiable and to oblige me

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to court his neereſt friendſhip. Satisfied therefore as I am, that you know he outweighs *Cartageues*, I am reſolved to follow your adviſe and not by a diſ-ingenious, fooliſh, unworthy coyneſs, debarre my ſelf of the preſent, which heaven ſeems willing I ſhould receive. You have reaſon indeed, Couzen, interpoſed *Melian*, to think no more of your old ſervants, for the one *Alcidor's* luſtre darkens all theirs how conſiderable ſoever. He who knows him, ſaid *Vindorix*, and will not acknowledge him compoſed of worth, muſt be concluded either to overflow with envy, or to be very defective in judgment, I with a great deal of Solicitouſneſs wiſh you married to him, and I am in continual fear leaſt this good fortune ſhould be raviſht from you by ſome ſiniſter accident. Heaven, if it thinks good, returned *Dorame* to him, will preſerve him from me. You had ſeen him here at preſent had not a quarrel between two of his friends called him away; but to morrow he is to return, and if he loves not me, yet he loves his word better than to fail. I wiſh, reſumed *Rolimon*, that he veiled not his deſign from you, and inſtead of going to agree ſome friends is, not gone to fight ſome Enemy. Give not your ſelf the trouble of ſuch

fears, replied *Dorame* to him, for I am very certain he hath nothing of difference of his own to decide with any body, having ſight of a Letter which informed me he was only arbitrator in a diſagreement of others. But ſince you are particularly acquainted, as you was ſaying, with his life; the Hiſtory of it, during his abſence, would be a diverſion very agreeable to me if not a labor too troubleſome to you, You could not ask me a thing, anſwered her, *Rolimon*, which is more to my mind, than to entertain you with what I underſtand of his affairs, and if you will not give me that attention which I may claim as their right, I doubt not but to make you confeſs that few things more conſiderable have come to your ears. Preſently *Melian*, *Vindorix* and *Dorame* ſeating themſelves about him, he began his Narration in theſe Tearms.

The History of *Alcidor*.

SInce I have undertaken to give you an account of as much as I know of *Alcidor's* Life, it is just that I first shew you what his Original was and what his younger Motions, that so by the one you may see what a Noble Stock he grows upon, and by the other what an Elevation of Spirit he gave evidence of in his feeble years. He is Issued by his Father *Miraldus* of one of the most antient Houses of the Province of *Quincij*, by his Mother *Deisila* of a Branch Royal of *China*, by both allied to the most Eminent Families of the Kingdom. The Pomp of his Birth was equal to the height of it, there was no body considerable in the Vicinage who came not to welcome him into the World, and Feasts,

Bals, and all the more fashonable and elegant expressions of joy were for five days together the exercises of them that came. The first hours of his birth, they who seriously considered him, not out of flattery but judgment, congratulated his Parents concerning him, as a work of their Mariage which Nature had taken a pleasure to render compleat. They themselves indeed could not look upon him without fancying his eyes, beamings of a Genius that promised nothing mean; and he gave a very early confirmation of their Fancy; for by that time he had gotten over four years he delighted himself in nothing so much as in seeing Arms and Horses, and in handling the one and mounting the other, thereby giving Omens that holding dear in his Childhood the instruments of glory, he would in time prove by them as worthy an Heir of *Miraldus* his Reputation, as of his Estate.

When he had attained to an age capable of learning things worth the knowing, he found nothing difficult to him but comprehended them wholly almost as soon as he had the beginnings of them taught him. I my self have, not without astonishment, observed him to understand at seven years that which a better spirit than ordinary must have

have been at a great deal of pains to apprehend at twelve, his judgment and gracefulness were while he was a Child advanced to a maturity that ſpake him Man. Grown bigger he ſhewed himſelf furniſht with ſo many excellent quallities that his glad Parents thought it time that he ſhould ſee the Superbe Court of *Florimen*, where they hoped he would one day make his Vertue ſhine, and there, if he was taken with the beauties of the place he took all that ſaw him with the early and moſt hopeful bloſſomes of his youth; *Arcantus* in particular the King's Brother took him into his Boſome, and affectionately made it his care that there ſhould be nothing wanting to the rendring of him a moſt compleat perſon.

The various practiſes of the *Indian* Kingdome inciting the great Lords of *China* to revolt anew, and combuſtions being by that means kindled and blown up very dammagable to the State, in aggravation of the diſorder, *Arcantus* complained that he was ſlighted, and that *Podamus*, *Oraſtes* and *Belliman* had in the Counſell of the twelve Auditors without calling him to it, acted as they thought good, very much in prejudice of his concerns. Nor did he complain only, but alſo, not able to brook the

Bravades of those Princes who were strangers from the Royal Bloud, he departed from Court and levied Forces. In these *Alcidor* commenc't the Soldior, following his Colours with an ardor answerable to the obligation which he had to him, and which remarkably auspicated those great things which he afterwards performed.

From this spring many different motions arising in *China*, the Prince *Arcantes* within a few days published a Declaration, in which he protested that he had not departed and armed but to employ his Fortunes, Forces and Life, to remove the Authors of the publick confusion, to prosecute justice for the Rapines and Massacres comitted during the Reign of *Trasilas*, and to restore the many Lords, Gentlemen and others that were in Prison and in Exile. In pursute of this Declaration to encrease his Appennage and by common armes recover peace to the Nation, he joyned himself with those of the new sect (as it was called) of Religion. But the Queen-Mother seeing that his Resentments and proceedings enfeebled rather than strengthened the authority which she assumed over all affairs made a journey to him, and by her powerfull influence and Prudential workings obtained

tained a ſucceſs of Hoſtility for ſix Moneths.

By the end of this time *Poliaris* Brother in Law to *Florimen* by the Marriage of his Siſter having made an eſcape from Court a potent Army of Male-contents was in the Field and *Arcantes* marching in the head of them. To oppoſe them, *Oraſtes* and thoſe of his Houſe framed a League and drew the King to ſign it, and all was ready to be undone, when to take from the factious all pretext of fiſhing in troubled Waters, *Arcantus* returned to good tearms with the King, having obliged him to hold a general Counſell of the Kingdom for recompenſing the good, puniſhing the bad, and ſetting right what was out of order.

All quarrels appeaſed between the two Royall Brothers, the Revolters ſent abroad their Manifeſto's, and in calming this diſturbance, was the King detained when came Deputies of the Province of *Loxa* to beg ſuccors of him, and to demand the Prince his Brother for Protector of their Liberties againſt the *Indians*. What they askt they obtained; *Arcantus* was preſently declared Lieutenant General, and with a conſiderable ſum took his way to *Brema*, *Alcidor* both by the Prince's invitation, and

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by the inſtigation of his own humor went one of the company thither, and he ſaw there ſo much Honor paid to *Arcantus* and ſo much affection ſhewed to the meaneſt of his retinue, that he was ready to repute their aboade there for that of *Florimen's* Palace, and that fair Town for the Floriſhing City of *Paquin*. All were indeed received by their new Hoſts with as much kindneſſes, as if they had been in their own Houſes but they ill repaid their kindneſſes, and and by grand diſorders made them too quickly reckon, that the *Chinoiſe* tuition was leſs eaſie to brook than the *Indian* Tyranny. In ſhort, whatſoever good order *Arcantus* could take, who in an exemplary manner cauſed the inſolents to be puniſht, they who were called in for ſuccour loaded with ſuch ill uſages by thoſe that had called them, that to diſenſlave and revenge themſelves together, they turned to weave conſpiracies againſt them, and reſolved by an univerſal Maſſacre to diſgorge them. From the reſolution they ſoon paſt to the execution, and it was ſo bloudy a one, that the Prince did not but with much difficulty ſave himſelf from it. A great part of his People were aſſaſſinated in *Brema*, and *Alcidor* had in all likelyhood ran the ſame fortune, had not the faithful *Turgiſtus* kept him concealed in his

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Houſe till the rage of the multitude was blown over. His Prince having left behind him that infamous aboade, when ſo much nobleneſs had in a moſt horrid manner a Burying place given them, not ſeeing him among thoſe that eſcaped, believed without any farther hopes and therefore not without a Pathetick ſorrow that he had been Sacrificed to the ſame barbarous fury with the reſt. With the ſame ſad concluſion were *Miraldus* and *Deiſila*, after all the information that they could get, forced to ſit down, wholly overwhelmed with grief. But while they were lamenting him as dead, he on a ſudden preſented himſelf to them alive and well, and together with himſelf *Turgiſtus* as the invaluable freind who had firſt ſaved him from the tempeſt, and then taking the advantage of the fair weather that ſucceded it had put him in diſguiſe and conducted him to them. That the ſight of him did in a moment change all their blacks into colors of extream joy and that his Deliverer had large heaps of remunerations thrown upon him, I ſupoſe, I need not tel you.

Oraſtes and his confederates, not able better to authorize their Monopolies than by ſetting the Subject againſt the King, did by their ſubtle acts ſo effectually work them

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to their purpoſe that to hear their inſolent diſcourſes of their Sovereign and his Government would have inclined one to ſay that he was bound to hold in fee of their capriciouſneſs. In proſecution of this they took up Arms and brought into the World the deſigns which they had been a long time hatching, by the ſame means ſending *Arcantus* out of it, who with greif to ſee his Brother and the Kingdom involved in the confuſion of a ſixth civil War, wherein alſo he ſaw his own pretenſions reverſed, fell ſick and dyed. After his death the King who had no Child cauſed *Polianis* to be received as the firſt Prince of the Bloud and Prime Victory of *China*. Where the Leaguers deriving freſh pretexts of diſſatisfaction ſpake not of the King but with an unſufferable contempt, told the Multitude that *Polianis* would bring the true Religion of *China* under the yoke of the new Sectaries, ſowed abroad defamatory Libels, vigorouſly carried on their Counſels in the Provinces of *Iroquiam* and *Cantan*, begot a numerous increaſe to their party in *Paquin* and every where induced the People to riſe, who were otherwiſe diſpoſed to it by the corruptions of the Court. To prevent the ruine which by this means hung over the Publick

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and to that purpoſe to waſh away the foundations of the Confederacy that threatned it, the King diſpatcht Letters into all his Provinces, wherein he obliged the Governors of places and perſons of quallity not to abandon his ſervice and the common good. Among theſe, *Alcidor*, though eminently recommendable for his Birth Courage, Vertues and Intereſts, and though Maſter of a very large Eſtate which his lately deceaſt Father had left him, was forgotten to be put by the King. This forgetfulneſs, boyling with a generous heat of Soul, he took for a Mark of contempt, and was toucht with it to the quick: from the emotion he proceeded to a conſideration of conſcience, and repreſenting to himſelf that the Party of the League was of the true Religion and undertook its defence againſt the other, he grew to an opinion that to follow them was to fight for God. Notice of his diſcontent by ſome factious inſtruments brought to *Oraſtes*, he quickly ſent to viſit him with Officers of all the Advantages which in ſuch a War he could on his ſide hope for, and when, not a little pleaſed to ſee himſelf ſought to by a Prince of ſo advanced a name and ſwaying influence he as he thought himſelf bound to do, went to

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him, that perfect Courtier by the inevitable ſpels with which he laid hold upon him brought him with fervour to embrace his ſide againſt that of his Sovereign. Which done, to keep him his, as he made him, and withal to take the benefit of his being ſo, he gave him Moneys and Commiſſion to raiſe five hundred Horſe, and he in execution of the truſt was on a ſudden ſeen at the head of many ſilent Men, attempting and atchieving things which, called, not only the vulgar but the braveſt of the Nation to take notice of him with admiration, and which particularly purchaſed him the good will of *Liſantus* one of the moſt Gallant chiefs of the party.

The heads of the League, to give it good colour and to draw ſtrength to it, had publiſht very ſpecious principles as motives of it, and had conjured the Princes, Nobles and Commons to ſtand up for the Antient faith againſt the Novel, which they ſaid the King favoured againſt them, by that Lure decoying into them multitudes of credulous People. To impede this the King put abroad a Declaration in which he cleared himſelf from the ſeveral blots wherewith they aſperſed him and particularly teſtified that he bore a ſincere and conſtant love to the ſettled Religion of *China*; that which diſarmed a great

great number of People and some of them very considerable; but not *Alcidor*, who persisted so affectionate to the cause which he had espoused, believeing himself bound to venture, and if need required, to spend his Life in its quarrel, that nothing but death seemed of power to discover him from it. In proportion to his affection did his courage and Prudence labour for its advantage, but notwithstanding all the endeavors both of him and others to hold it up, they saw it in a short time so enfeebled and bent to fall that they were constrained to incline to peace, and to return it, not for always, yet at least for a time to the obedience of their King.

It was indeed no long time before they who had been so forced to lay down their Arms had taken them up again; which *Polianis* seeing put himself in the Field with a very considerable Strength, and as first Prince of the Bloud declareing their practises Felonious protested, he would as faithfully as necessarily defend against them the prerogative of the King, the Stare of the Queen Mother, and the fundamental Laws of the Realm. In sequel of this the War becoming open, *Alcidor* got on Horse back and ranged himself in the Army that was led

led by *Lucimon*, where continually seeking occasions of Action he signalized his vertue and aggrandized his name by deeds, which were altogether wonders. But he could not by all that he could do, protect that Brother of *Oraſtes* from being as continually moleſted ſo in ſeveral Battels notably beaten by the Brother-in-law of *Florimen*.

Lucimon after a while advancing to *Paquin*, whoſe Inhabitants had been diligently chafed to ſtir, and lookt with jealouſie upon the intervier which *Polianis* and the Queen Mother had lately had, and there by the intereſt of *Oraſtes* whom they worſhipt as a God, making what impreſſion upon them he deſired, *Oraſtes*, himſelf in another quarter with loud and ſharp invectives complaining of the King that he had labored againſt his own work by revoking an authentick Edict of Peace by another which he had made ſince, carried on the War with a very ſedulous and potent hand. In the end the *Indians* being called in by him and following his call, and the Kingdom being on all ſides imbraced with Hoſtility, the Opponent Armies came to a bloody Fight, in which *Lucoris* was ſlain, *Polianis* remained Victorious, and the vanquiſht were reduced

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to such an universal disorder, extream confusion and miserable estate that they who escaped from the deluge of blood that was shed, had wholly exposed themselves to the mercy of the Conquerors, had it not been for *Alcidor*, who as in the Battel, so in the rout and Flight, did all that it was possible for a Man of heart, to do. He with a management which can never be too much applauded carried of the said relicks of the shipwrack, drew them into a Body and offered fair for the repairing of the loss. But the Commanders proved too timerously affected towards the undertaking, and the Soldiers more eager of securing, than of hazarding themselves and of running a way than of Fighting again.

The revolt was thus set at Bay; but the principal Authors of it determined, rather to Abyss themselves in the ruines of the State, than change the course which they had begun: and presently the King from all parts received Advertisement of the conspiring of his Subjects. For the necessary security therefore both of his Person and his head City, he put a Garrison in it; which *Praxtes* looking upon as intended a curb to his ambitious practises he so powerfully incited the people that they fall to barricading

and committed ravages altogether unworthy of *Chinoiſes*, and which made the King leave *Paquin* to go ſeek a ſhelter againſt the ſtorm that threatned his life. The King, and with him the Court gone, the Miſerable Citizens ſenſible of the wound which they had thereby received, repented of their diſobedience and deſired the Parliament to beg their Pardon and humbly beſeech his Majeſty to return to his Palace, and by his preſence reſtore to that great Town the abundant Emoluments which his removal had taken from them. But this, reckoning himſelf juſtly incenſt, he reſolvedly denied; his denial very much perplext both the People and their leaders, and to warrant themſelves from the miſcheifs which they ſaw were likely to fall upon their heads they ſet new Engines on work and made new experiments. *Florimen* on the other ſide armed, both againſt them, and theſe of the other Religion, and againſt both obtained very important victories; All things went to his advantage. Which *Oraſtes* ſeeing, and that after whatſoever manner he ſteered his deſigns they ſailed not with an untoward wind, he demanded an aſſemby of the general Counſel of the Kingdome to the end, as he ſaid, of re-eſtabliſhing peace and re-

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placing the King's Subjects in a perfect Obedience. The King having granted what he demanded, and opened that great Court with a speech, of which the Eloquence and Conduct made him admired for one of the wiſeſt and moſt excellent heads that wore a Crown, he, who had braved his authority confidently, preſented himſelf before him, and he recieved him with a gratious aſpect, but not long after by the adviſe of his Counſel diſpatcht him out of the World. Upon notice of which Execution the People of *Paquin* broke out into extremeties which trampled all their allegiance under foot, and in revenge of it *Lucimon* raiſed them that were exaſperated in plain rebellion, and after their example ſeveral of their chief Towns of *China*, and having gained a formidable ſtrength advanced towards *Florimen* with a confidence of making him his Priſoner. But upon intiligence of his enterprize *Polianis* reconciled himſelf with the King, employed his Arms in his ſuccor and forc't the Enemy to fly. In this occaſion was *Alcidor* engaged on the ſide of *Lucimon* and performed all the parts of a Man of courage but was conſtrained to give place to Equity and Force.

A little after having notice that his friend

Tyrenas was taken Priſoner and kept at *Chinanfu* he contrived and effected the conveiyance of a Letter to him, wherein he aſſured him that he would, if poſſible, ſuddenly procure his liberty, either by Money, or Exchange, or ſome other means; and what he promiſed he faithfully endeavored by Offers of tearmes, but altogether unprofitably.

He therefore wove a project of ſurprizing the place, which he communicated to *Liſantus*, and which he highly approving they cauſed a ſilent number of Souldiers to be habited like villagers, but armed under their habits, and ſent them with inſtructions under ſhew of going to Market to ſeize one of the gates, but before thy could ſeize it they were diſcovered and the body of the guard alarrumed. They, notwithſtanding that, after a hot aſſault and vigorous reſiſtance made themſelves Maſters of it. At the noiſe which they made *Alcidor* powred in with the Men which he had in readineſs for the purpoſe, and after him *Liſantus* with a greater force, and having taken the firſt Body of the Guard and all without, ſeized a Canon that was pointed againſt them, and pointed it againſt the Town. Amazed with which, and looking upon themſelves as unable to reſiſt, thoſe of the Garriſon

recieved

received the Laws of the Conqueror. I need not repreſent to you the pleaſure of *Tyrenas* to find himſelf at liberty and the acknowledgments that he made to the Authors of it; they are eaſie enough to be immagined.

In this part of the relation *Dorame*, could not forbear interrupting her Uncle and telling him that all the actions of *Alcidor* had ſo much Beauty in them that ſhe let none of them paſs without giving them acclamations; but this laſt of all the reſt, conſidering eſpecially, added ſhe, that ſuch men who will hazard their lives for them whom they pretend to love, are very rare in this age, in which falſhood and diſſimulation raign far more powerfully than either Fidelity or freeneſs. It is uſual with *Alcidor*, Coſin returned *Roliman* to her, to perform that which is not uſual with others, and there are ſeveral paſſages of his ſtory, yet behind by which you will ſee he hath an unqueſtionable title to more than common Encomiaſticks and that upon the ſcore not of one only but of many vertues.

A Few days after the ſurpiſal of *Chinanfu*, went he on, *Alcidor* had information brought him that the Governour whom he and *Liſantus* had placed in it, deſigning to better his fortune by betraying his truſt, was a-

bout to diſpoſe it to the ſervice of the King; with which he having acquainted *Liſantus*, they only with two Men put themſelves into the place, ſecretly called together ſome of the principal Perſons of it, and by the Oratory that they uſed moulded them into the form that they deſired. That done they aſſembled the chief of the Governour's Party and with the Poniard at their throat made them promiſe to ſerve the League; they turned out the old Governor and ſettled one of approved Integrity in his room, they took an Oath of Fidelity of all the People, and made the Garriſon moſt firmly theirs.

No ſooner had they with a great deal of honour accompliſht this, which they had with enough of danger enterprized, but *Lucimon* informed of *Florimens* advance towards *Paquin* conjured *Alcidor* with all ſpeed to put himſelf into it, to defend it. But with this part of his life, I am not throughly acquainted particularly not with the love, which they ſay, he and the Princeſs *Floriſſa* had at that time for one another. Hearing him ſay ſo, I am very ſorry, ſaid *Dorame* to him, that you can relate nothing to us of that buſineſs with which I have been more than once entertained, but

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ſo confuſedly that I underſtand little of it and which I aſſure my ſelf is none of the meaneſt imbelliſhments of that life that you are recounting. The occurencies of it are indeed very divertiſing, ſaid *Vindorix*, and ſuch that one cannot well hear without having one's ſpirit made a kind of a Priſoner to them. You have then a knowledg of them, ſaid *Dorame* to him. I have a great deal of reaſon to blame my Memory, reſumed *Rolimon*, for not re-calling that my Nephew was during all the Siege ſhut up in *Paquin* with *Alcidor*; ſo that there is no body who ſo well as he can preſerve his ſtory from having one of his chiefeſt ornaments retrencht. I muſt acknowledge, reparted *Vindorix*, I not only was a witneſs of the Atchievements of War which *Alcidor* performed in that Siege, but I was alſo no ſtranger to the intrickes of love which paſt then between him and the Princeſs *Floriſa*. I was for that time his Companion in Arms, and he made few enterpriſes upon our Enemyes in which I was not his aſſiſtant. One deſigne had engaged us to the League, and reckoning to act vigorouſly for our conſcience and glory, we upon all occaſions put our ſelvs upon dangers for a party which we have ſince found

unjuſt and too late abandoned. But, not to waſt time in that which is nothing to our preſent purpoſe, I ſhall give you all the account that I can of that which you deſire to know.

As *Vindorix* was opening his mouth to begin what he had to ſay, word was brought to *Dorame* that there were two Gentlemen alighted who deſired to pay her their reſpects. Having ſent back him who brought the word to conduct them in, and riſing up to go and receive them, ſhe ſaw enter her Chamber two near Kinſmen of *Cloriaſtes* who a little before would have Duelled *Cartagenes* as his rival in her love. *Rolimon*, *Orlian* and *Vindorix*, being well acquainted with them, quickly learnt what it was that had brought them thither. Which being to ſolicite *Dorame* to accept their kinſman for her Husband, *Rolimon* made ſuch a rehearſal to them of the refuſal which ſhe had given him and his companions ſuing for *Cartagenes*, that they lookt upon it as unreaſonable for them to imagine that they could obtain of her for their friend what her Uncle and Couſins could not for theirs. They were made yet farther to deſpair of prevailing with her by *Vindorix* aſſuring them that there had paſt mutual profeſſions of kindneſs

neſs between her and *Alcidor*. In the laſt place *Dorame* herſelf deprived them of all hope, ſpeaking to them of *Alcidor* as of one whom ſhe had reaſon to love, and whom therefore ſhe really did love above all thoſe who had made ſuite to her. Unable therefore to diſapprove the choice that ſhe had made and unwilling to travel their ſpirits to make Marble ſenſible, they ſuperſeded from their negotiation and paſt to congratulate to her the affections of him, of whoſe value they avowed they had ſufficient cogniſance. In ſuch diſcourſes they held one another till Supper time; when *Dorame* contrary to the intentions which *Floris* and *Lucidas* had of going away that night engaged them to ſit down at Table with her. After ſupper going to ſpend what remained of the day in the Garden they fell preſently upon their former ſubjects, *Cartagenes*, *Cloriaſtes* and *Alcidor*, and all agreed to give the laſt a higher form in their Elogies than to either of the former, but that *Cartagenes* was to be ſet above *Cloriaſtes*, or *Cloriaſtes* above *Cartagenes* would by no means be yielded by *Floris* and *Lucidas* on the one ſide, or by *Rolimon*, *Melian* and *Vindorix* on the other. The conteſt growing warm, to bring them to an accord

accord and not favour the one in diſadvantage of the other, *Dorame* paſt judgement that they were both Men of Honor, and ſo equal in all quallities requiſite to perſons of their conditions that there were no praiſes due to the one which were not alſo deſerved by the other. This determination finiſhing the difference and the ſhadows beginning to cover the Earth they retired all into the Houſe and quickly after every one to his Lodging.

The End of the Firſt Book.

The

The Second Book.

NOT a wink of ſleep could *Dorame* get all Night, Diſquieted with the Viſion which ſhe had of a ſhadow every moment, preſenting it ſelf to her; the more ſhe conſidered of which the more ſhe imagined *Alcidor* dead, and the more this indignation prevailed upon her, the more increaſed her inquietudes. Her ſighes reaching the ears of *Oriana* and *Milſinda*, her women, they roſe, lighted Candles, inquired into her new trouble, and finding what ill impreſſion ſhe had concieved, endeavored all that they were able to remove it. But it had taken too deep root to be on a ſudden pulled up; only their remonſtrances and the light of the Candles together in ſome meaſure leſſened the diſturbance that it gave her.

her. Perceiving which, though ſhe remanded them to their Beds, they would not be over-ruled to leave her till it was day and that ſhe had in a good part laid aſide her black fancy. The day advancing and ſhe keeping her Bed to redeem the repoſe of which the diſpleaſures of the night had robbed her, it was not long before a kind ſleep lockt up her ſenſes and cares together. Which laſting ſome hours and then leaving her very well refreſht, ſhe was told as ſoon as ſhe was throughly awake that *Rollmon*, *Vindorix* and the others having heard of her ill reſt waited to know when they might with her convenience viſit her. She thereupon ſending them word that ſhe was ready to bid their company welcome, they came all into her Chamber; where after they had heard from her own mouth what diſturbance ſhe had had, they jointly made it their buſineſs to take her from all melancholick immaginations.

While they were thus employed there was brought into the Chamber *Limonides* who applying himſelf to *Dorame*, I come, Madam, ſaid he to her, to bring you the tidings of my Maſters fate, whom *Alcidor* hath ſent to his Grave. *Alcidor* hath killed *Cartagenes*, cryed *Dorame*: See the truth

truth of the Viſion which hath ſo much tormented me. Here is a Letter, Madam, proceeded he, preſenting one to her, which will aſſure you of what I have told you. Having taken and opened it ſhe read in it theſe words.

Cartagenes *to* Dorame.

I Have reckoned it more juſt to try the honorable way of a combate with Alcidor *than to withdraw cowardly from your ſervice, and ſhamefully leave him the Glory of ſo fair a prize, I have been the aggreſſor in the quarrell and for my reward have received two wounds which deprive me of my blood and life together. My ſervant will entertain you with the accident, the litle ſtrength that I have left permitting me to tell you no more but that I dye your ſervant and that* Alcidor *merits you far better than either* Cloriaſtes *or* Cartagenes.

Dorame was deeply ſtruck with the miſfortune and witneſſed by plenty of tears the lively ſenſe which ſhe had of it, together with the good eſteem in which ſhe had the unhappy lover. Oh the ſtrange effects of Love, cryed *Rolimon*! *Cartagenes* ingaged

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us to ſeek *Dorame* in Marriage for him, and in his ſoul thought of dying. Pardon me, Sir, ſaid *Limonides* to him, my Maſter thought of nothing leſs than fighting when he gave you the pains of comming hither, he had at that time nothing in his mind but his Love; but there afterwards evened other things which begot in him an intention of fighting, that ſo he might confer and vindicate his honour. But whence, *Limonides*, ſaid *Dorame*, ſprung his quarrell with *Alcidor*? That you ſhould know it, Madam, replied *Limonides*, was part of his will before he dyed, of which he appointed me his Executor. Inſtantly after that my Lords who are here, Your Uncle and Couſins were gone from his Houſe, came in *Almidon* to him, and before me told him ſo many things to provoke him, that unleſs he had been altogether ſtupid or a coward he would by no means have remained without an angry reſentment. Among other things he told him, that *Alcidor* having with little paines acquired your favour ſo as to be declared your ſervant and owned by you for ſuch, had to your ſelf in the preſence of many perſons of quallity ſpoken ſo diſadvantageouſly and contemptuouſly of him that

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he could not believe himself his friend, did he not give him notice of it, and farther with all his power assist him to recover satisfaction of the injury. *Cartagenes* having with impatience enough heard what he said, If you did not assert it, *Alcidor* said he, I should have a great deal of difficulty to believe that *Alcidor* who is esteemed one of the most generous of men would discourse of me to her whom I adore; or indeed to any Body otherwise than he in equity and Candor ought. Hath he besides ever known me tamely pocket up an affront that he should take the confidence to give me so cruel a one? But I have a way to arrest his insolency, and if there be nothing besides the Beauty of *Dorame*, that is enough to make me Valiant, if not invincible. At these words *Almidon* saying that it belonged to him to serve him in revenge of the injury who had informed him of it, *Cartagenes* drew him aside and for some time held a discourse with him, of which I confess I had more than ordinary apprehensions. I knew *Almidon* to be a turbulent and unlucky intermedler, I knew also that he had a design of drawing my Master to the search of his Cousin *Lidia*; I therefore easily believed that he had upon that account brewed this quarrel for him.

Almidon

Almidon gone, *Cartagenes* paſt the reſt of the day in Melancholy. At night when he was going to Bed remembring that I had heard the greateſt part of what *Almidon* and he had ſaid to one another, could you have ever thought, ſaid he to me, that *Alcidor* would have thus abuſed me? I cannot be induced, Sir, returned I to him, to give any credit to what hath been told you, and I wiſh for your quiet you would not at all regard it. To this he replied nothing but bid me put him to bed, which I did and gave him the good-night. Next morning at point of day he called me to dreſs him, which done, he took horſe (and I with him) to go to ſee one of his friends. By the way (I know not what ill fortune would have it ſo) he about the middle of the day took a path which he was never, that I know of, wont to follow. Having followed it ſome Miles he happened to meet *Alcidor*, whom accoſting with a bold roughneſs, he angrily enough demanded of him the reaſon why he had ſpoken ſo unhandſomly of him to *Dorame*, To that, you ſhould learn to know me better, replied *Alcidor*, than to believe that I am of a humor to offend any Perſon without reaſon; and the injury that you do me in taking up that ill opinion of me is

greater

greater than that which it ſeems you take for granted I have done you. But beſides this, the Lovely *Dorame* deſerves that we ſhould make one thruſt with our Swords, as I ſee you have a mind we ſhould; and I take mine in my hand, continued he, to let you know that I will have the glory of ſerving her alone, engaged both by what he had ſaid himſelf, and by *Alcidor's* words and action my Maſter drew together with him, but wholly to his misfortune. For though he was well mounted and (as is enough known) very ſtout, he quickly recieved two wounds, one of which being in his belly gave him only leaſure to get to a little houſe hard by where they fought, to write the Letter that I have brought you, and juſt as he expired to command me to give you, together with that, an account of his diſaſter. But I muſt not forget, added *Limonides*, the generouſneſs of *Alcidor*, who, when he ſaw his adverſary tumble to the ground at the ſecond thruſt that he gave him, jumpt from his Horſe to his ſuccor. Which he who was fallen ſeeing, and getting up of himſelf, trouble not your ſelf, brave *Alcidor*, ſaid he, to help me; I am mortally wounded, and though with your Sword *Almidon* is the cauſe of it. That

base man shall dye, returned *Alcidor* to him, or I will my self perish by that kind of people who are skilful to make more quarrels than they are able to appease. Believe me, I never spake a word of you that could give you a disgust. I am too certain of your innocence, replied *Cartagenes* to him, to make any further question of it, and let you plainly see the baseness of *Almidon*, *Limonides* shall give you an account of the discourse which he yesterday held to me, in the mean time that we binde up my wounds and I recover strength to carry me to some place where I may dye more conveniently than here. Accordingly while *Alcidor* served my Master for Chyrurgion, I served *Alcidor* for intilligencer. Which done we had only time to conveigh my Master to the neareſt comodious place that we could find, and there as soon as he had written to you he dyed. An adventure Sir, said *Vindorix* to *Floris*, which challenges the tribute of a weeping eye, and I fear, if ill Fortune be not by some means of prevention made to change her course, the same may arrive to *Clortaſtes*. To prevent that, returned *Floris* to him, we will make haſt to him and perswade him to sit down form his

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hopeleſs ſuite and leave the excellent *Dorame*, to her Gallant *Alcidor*, *Cartagenes* himſelf, when he was dying, voting him the moſt worthy to poſſeſs her.

Dorame was going to ſpeak, when a Lacquey of *Alcidors* was brought into the Chamber and hindred her; preſenting her a Letter which ſhe firſt read privately to herſelf and then aloud to the company in theſe words.

Alcidor *to* Dorame.

I had no deſign when I took leave of you but to accord a difference between two of my Friends; but I have experimented that my ill fortune deſtined me to ſomething elſe. Yeſterday I by chance met with Cartagenes, *who aboarded me with ſo ill a diſcourſe, that my honour obliged me to make him little elſe of anſwer but that of my Sword in my hand. We fought, and though he had more valour than I, he had worſe luck, it was my luck to make him fall. I reckon my fault very great that I have drawn my Sword, and that mortally, againſt one who offered ſervice to you, and whom you juſtly eſteemed. But by that goodneſs that is proper to you, I beſeech you to pardon me, and I hope you will, conſidering among other things that*

without your anger I am ſufficiently puniſht for what I have done in that I muſt for a while deprive my ſelf of the happyneſs of ſeeing you, not thinking it fit for the preſent to make you ſee him who hath killed Cartagenes.

Dorame was troubled as much at this Letter as for the death of *Cartagenes* believing that *Alcidor* would leave of his pretenſions of Love to her, out of apprehenſion of many dangers which he might poſſibly incurre in proſecuting them. *Vindorix* knowing what pinched her, acquainted as you are with the ſentiments of *Alcidor*, ſaid he to her, by the ill judgement which I ſee you make of him, you unſufferably wrong both his courage and his affection. He is none of thoſe whoſe ſouls ſtart back at the noiſe of leaves, or whoſe loves are unhinged by their more predominant fears. He is indeed moved when he is prickt in honour and bound to ſeek ſatisfaction, but it is not that he dreads a new quarrel or a new combate that he tells you he ſhall be without ſeeing you; it is only that he may not appear before you with his hand dy'd, and reeking with the bloud of *Cartagenes*. Write to him to come to you, and you will ſoon ſee that he knows how to obey you. If he

ſtayes

ſtayes not but till he is ſent for returned *Dorame*, I ſhall quickly ſee him here, for I ſhall quickly give him the ſummons of a letter. It is indeed, Couzen, ſaid *Roliman* to her, no more than what is handſom on your part, and deſerved on his, and you will (as far as can be ſeen) derive from it nothing but what is good. I am altogether of that mind, added *Melian* to her, and you will ſoone be convinced that nothing can defer him from preſenting himſelf to you when he knows you deſire it. *Dorame* relishing well the reaſons of her Kinſmen and the inforcements of them which were made by *Floris* and *Lucidas*, preſently took her Pen and drew theſe lines.

Dorame *to* Aleidor.

I Write not to you to blame you for what you have done, I am ſenſible of the juſt occaſion which you had of ſerving your ſelf with your beſt forces and addreſs to preſerve your life againſt thoſe who would have raviſht it from you: It is only to oblige you to give me your company as ſoon as you can, your action not being ſuch that it ſhould be puniſht with flight or any thing of ſhame or horror. Cartagenes *himſelf hath left ſufficient teſtimonies to juſtifie*

you, and you will believe that I have recieved them, and approved them, when you see that the bearer of this Letter is Limonides *who hath order to seek you through all the World.*

Limonides very gladly taking the charge of carrying this Letter, as that which he said would be a great contentment to him amidst the displeasures which he had for his Masters death, and being gone away with it, *Dorame* who had her mind no more diseased with the frightful fansies of the night, rose from her bed, and sat down with her company to dinner. Risen from Table they went into the Gallery and there sometimes walking, sometimes sitting, spent two or three hours in discoursing about *Alcidor* and *Cartagenes*, about the various traverses and effects of Love, and at last about *Cloriastes*; reviving their apprehensions concerning him, that he might split himself against the same Rock that *Cartagenes* had. After which *Floris* and *Lucidas* considering that it was time he was advised rather to be patient in missing than obstinate in attempting that which it was impossible for him ever to obtain, and which to seek to obtain, would in probability be fatall to his life, and also that they had no more of day

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left than they ſhould need to conveigh them whither they were to go, they took congey of *Dorame* and her relations and went away. Their backs being turned, *Dorame* took her Uncle and Couſins into a private Chamber, and having made them ſit down and ſeated her ſelf, You know, Couſin, ſaid ſhe, directing her ſpeech to *Vindorix*, that the arrival of *Floris* and *Lucidas* hindred you yeſterday from carrying on the ſtory of *Alcidor* in that part of it where without your help it will remain defective, and that other impediments alſo have fallen in to day: But now we are at leaſure to enjoy this divertiſement; I intreate you therefore to favour us with it. I am ready, Madame, replyed *Vindorix*, to obey you, and after a little pauſe began thus.

Alcidor having receaved the deſires of *Lucimon* and *Liſantus* to put himſelf into Parquin, the friendſhip which he and I had contracted, ſuffered us not to part, and, though I was alltogether unworthy of that reſpect, he would not enter the citty without my company. The day of our entrance the five hundred horſe which he brought with him, and his preſence together rayſing and fortifying the fallen courages of thoſe whom the conſcience of their crimes had filld with the

apprehenſions of puniſhment, we were wellcomed with ſo much honour, he for his part that *Lucimon* and *Liſantus* could not have receaved more, and I, for my part, that I never the like. The Magiſtrates and Grandees giving him this reception in the palace of *Floriſa*, whom her Uncle *Lucimon* had left in Paquin after the death of her Father *Oraſtes*, the remarkes which ſhe ſhewed of kindeneſſe toward him were ſuch, that together with me, many others that were there tooke notice that ſhe was never accuſtomed to afford the like to any. He againe applyed himſelfe to her in ſuch a faſhion, that the Muſes ſeemed to ſit upon his lippes and the Graces upon all his parts: and not content by that meanes to draw her reſpects to himſelfe he ſpake to her of me ſo much to my advantage that ſhe ſpent complements upon me which I very well knew I had nothing that encouraged me to owne as my due, and with which I found myſelfe more put to a ſtand than ever in my life beſides.

The Governour and other Officers having intruſted us with the cheife commands of the Towne, wee without any ſupineneſſe uſed them to the utmoſt of our power in giving neceſſary orders for defending it, and that late enough; for within foure dayes after

after the paſſages were all ſeized by the King, the outworkes attaqued and the ſeige formed. We lay not ſtill in this occaſion; *Alcidor* had more gallantry and his Troopes more ambition of fighting, we made a ſalley, and in that firſt eſſay of our armes brought backe advantages over our beſeigers which cauſed fires of joy to be lighted through all the City. Not ſatisfied with the triumph unleſs ſhe ſaw him who had procured it, *Floriſa* ſent for *Alcidor* to come to her, and it was then that going along with him to her I percieved by her eyes, words and whole carriage not onely that his valour kept her from ſhaking under the feares which ſhe had of falling into the hands of her fathers enemies but alſo that his perſon was a great deal more than indifferent to her. When wee were going from her, you have not onely Paquin to preſerve, *Alcidor*, ſaid ſhe to him, you have alſo an unfortunate princeſſe under your guard, take heed therefore how you hazard your life ſince it is my ſupport. In reply to this, I therefore make Eſteem of Paquin, Madam, ſaid *Alcidor*, becauſe it holds ſo rich a treaſure as the princeſſe *Floriſa*. Knowing indeed whence and what you are I ſhould goe againſt my Conſcience, ſhould I not ſet an higher value upon you than

than upon what I hold deareſt to me in the world. Whatſoever conſiderations therefore I can have, the ambition which I have of ſerving you will be ſure to ſurmount them all, & it will I hope not onely ſupply me with boldneſs of heart but with prudence alſo to manage it. This reply mooving ſo violently her inmoſt veines, that there roſe a ſudden crimſon from them and ſpred it ſelfe over her face; ſhe left us without ſaying any more but that ſhe would have us ſee her often. And in this wee obeyed her command; for whatſoever imployments we had to remedy the diſturbances which the enemy procured us, we forbore not to viſit her twice every day, and after a while whither ſhe deſir'd him ſo to doe or that it came of his owne motion *Alcidor* tooke up a cuſtome of going frequently to her without me. But on the other ſide whatſoever intreaties ſhe uſed to him, and ſhe uſed, beſides that mentioned before, very many and earneſt ones not to throw himſelfe into danger, he forbore not frequently to ingage himſelfe in the midſt of the enemy, doing things which made every body have him in their mouths for a kinde of miracle.

If we were active, our beſeigers were not idle, making atempts which for ſome time

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kept us day and night at worke. From which having one afternoone a little releaſe I made uſe of it to goe viſit *Alcidor*; but coming to his lodging, I found that he was gone to doe the ſame to *Floriſa*. I nevertheleſſe went into his chamber, where finding a booke upon his table I opened it, and turning over the firſt leafe of it I ſaw a letter droppe, which, out of a curioſity to know more of my friends particularities than I believed he had imparted to me, taking up and unfolding I read in it theſe words.

Floriſa to Alcidor.

IF you have but a little conſideration of the paine that I endure becauſe I ſee you not ſo often as I wiſh, I perſwade my ſelve you will come to ſee me aſſoone as you have read this letter wherein I deſire it. You too well know your owne merit and the influence which it hath upon me to make any queſtion of the advantage which I derive from your converſe. Make haſt therefore to me and involve not your ſelfe ſo much in the troubles of war as not by intermiſſion to come and ſweeten thoſe of Floriſa.

The fortune which I ſaw by this letter was arrived to *Alcidor* ſurprized me with a guſt that was very acceptable to me, but not without

without an allay when I considerd that he might not draw all that satisfaction from the affections of so high a person which he might from those of a meaner. The letter for feare that if I left it, where I found it, it might bee found by some other as it had been by me, or else might bee wholly lost I carried with me to my lodgings; where assoone as I was entred *Alcidor* coming to seek me, all his discourse to me was of *Florisa* and particularly of the visit which he came from making to her, and in his discourses he could not with all his arts so well dissemble but that he often changed colour, and discovered by many testimonyes that another God besides *Mars* had made him his votary; but yet he tooke not any notice to me of the princesse's writing to him, nor did I therefore to him that I knew any thing of it. I on the contrary industriously abstained from speaking anything of her to him at all, much more of her merite. But the more I shunned that theam, the more he prest it. To see therefore whither his passion would carry him I made it my buisines to dissent from what he said, which he tooke so ill, that to heare him chide me would have disposed one to judge that I had committed some grosse enormity.

Here *Dorame* interposing, it is not a little dis-

displeasure, said she, which a Lover receaves when one aproves not the prayses which he bestowes upon her whom he loves. I told you what designe I had in doing so, reducted *Viudorix*, and therefore I was not at all ingaged red with what *Alcidor*, said to me, as he e- terwards changing my stile spake to oduced good of the Princess that he quickly arre, but his also and gave me better words ver before had done. I then againe u another subject, which was that of it was easy for me to perceave that those words of Canon, powder musket, pike, sounded not so well in his eares as those of Love, of *Florisa*, and of her graces.

After we had thus entertained our selves a while at my chamber he carried me to his, When a little after we were entered taking up the booke in which I had found the letter, he turned over the leaves, ran into his closet, left no place unsearched, no servant unquestioned for what he mist. I asking him what it was that he inquired for, he told me that it was a paper of great importance to him. Farther I prest him, not for feare of being suspected of taking away that of which the absence put him into so great pain; But when I saw him by degrees calme himselfe and his spirit grow to some stillnes, I secretly so

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that he not at all perceaved me, put the letter under the tapeſtry of his table where he had not yet ſearched, and then as if by chance threw downe one of the ſides of the tapeſtry ſo that it let the letter droppe. Having with joy ſnatched it up, ſee that, ſaid he to me, in which lies comprehended all my eſtate of happineſſe. What ſo important treaſure can it conceale, returned I to him, that ſhould make you ſpeake ſo highly of it? Nor Riches nor honours, *Vindorix*, ſaid he againe, doe at all content us if our friends are ignorant that we poſſeſs them. Was I monarch of the world, I ſhould not be ſatiſtied if *Vindorix* had not knowledge of my ſcepter. I asking him than if ſomething new had happened to him which lay hid from me. Reade this letter, my deare companion, ſaid he to me and you will know what a liberall benefactreſs Fortune hath beene to me with which words, he putting it into my hand, I tooke it and after ſome ceremony that I uſed to it read aloud what I had more than once read to my ſelfe.

At theſe words, induſtrious cheater that you are ſaid *Dorame* to *Vindorix*, had *Alcidor* knowne your fraudulent ſubtleties your cloſe correſpondencies would have beene in danger to have been turned into an irrecon-

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cfleable diſcord. Why returned *Vindorix* to her, did I doe any thing in this which can be accounted a breach of freindſhip or which the beſt freind in the world would not have done? For all my talking, ſaid *Dorame* to him againe, I really blame you not at all; but I pray goe on with your relation. To goe on with it, reſumed *Vindorix*, *Alcidor* after I had read the letter told me that he had things to recount to me which I could not heav without ſurprize, and preſently uſed this diſcourſe to me,

It is a ſtrange power that of love, which we in vain inforce our ſelves to reſiſt. Who would have ever thought that I who perpetually made a mocke of love, ſhould come to be ſhut up in this beſeiged City to be made ſubject to that which I made a mocke of? I thought of vanquiſhing, and I am vanquiſht; I aimed at triumphing over brigades of Hoſtile men, and I am overcome by a maide a friend. You, divine *Floriſa*, have inſlaved me to your lawes, but by a force the ſweeteſt in the world as well as the moſt compulſive. You cannot but remember, my *Vindorix*, the day, the houre, the moment that we had firſt the bliſſe of wayting upon her; ſay truly, have you ever met with a face more beautifull, a proportion more exact,

exact, a ſpirit more fine, a port more graceſull? I know not how ſhe appeared to your eyes, but in mine ſhe had altogether as much beauty and Majeſty (be it ſpoken without injury to her virtue) as ever the poets attributed to the Miſtreſſe of the God of warre. Interpoſing here, having then and ſince, ſaid I, with a curious eye conſiderd the qualityes wherwith heaven hath furniſht her, I cannot ſay that ſhe hath paralſel. This is, rejoined *Alcidor*, to judge of things as they deſerve, and ſince to you I neither ought to diſſemble nor will, I acknowledge that from the firſt moment wherein I ſaw this unparalleld woman, I conceaved a paſſion for her; all the time that we were then with her, I thought of nothing but of her, I ſcarce conſiderd that I was in Paquin to defend it and had my ſelfe alſo to take care of. When we were parted I ſet my ſelfe ſeriouſly to ſtudy both of her perfection, and my owne change which ſprang from them, and I ſtrongly endeavoured to beate out the power which I found had ſurprized my heart, but I was forced to leave my ſelfe to be vanquiſht by that which I plainely ſaw I was not able to fight with.

The Princeſs you know, added he, from the good ſucceſs which we had of our ſwords when

when our beſeigers firſt approached the Citty, drawing an occaſion of ſending for us to give us the congratulations which ſhe thought fit, it was from that time that I knew that ſhe tooke a more than a common if not a very affectionate intereſt in me. One muſt indeed have been blinde, interrupted I him, or elſe wholly deprived of judgment not to draw that concluſion from all her deport towards you, particularly what other interpretation than that could be made of thoſe words which ſhe uſed to you at parting, you have not onely Paquin to preſerve but alſo an unhappy Princeſs to guard; take heed therefore how you hazard your life leaſt by looſing that you doe injury to mine by deſpoiling it of its ſupport.

After this, went he on, I many times viſited her without your knowledge, and as many times received teſtimonies of her kinde inclinations towards me. One time among the reſt ſhe was pleaſed in plaine tearmes to tell me that my perſon and humor were very agreeable to her, and that ſhe made more account of me than of all men in the world together; and I let not the opportunity ſlip by without improoving it, but tooke courage from what ſhe ſaid to declare to her in the moſt reſpectfull phraſe

that I could invent, that I had dedicated me ſelfe entirely to her as to the moſt abſolute peice of divinity among mortalls. In anſwer to which, you doe not at all diſoblige me, *Alcidor*, ſaid ſhe, in letting me know that you have an affection for me: Love me as much as you are deare to me, and I aske no more to be the moſt contented woman that lives. Impregnated with joy to heare her ſay ſo, The Goodneſs, Madam, replyed I to her, which you are pleaſed to teſtifie towards me fills me with an inebriating glory, bankrupts my gratitude, and leaves me nothing to doe in the world but by your premiſſion to be all my life in the quality of your ſlave, paying as much as I can of what I owe to your birth merite and bounty. Her Gentlewoman coming in, as I ſaid ſo, I held my tongue and laid a reſtraint upon my carriage; ſeeing which, have no reſerve, *Alcidor*, ſaid ſhe to me, becauſe of *Leonora*, for ſhe knowes all my ſecrecies; from the moment that I loved your vertue, I made her acquainted with it, and ſhe inſtead of diſſuading me from it, repreſented many things to me on your ſide, which ſerved to make me more highly eſteeme you. Hearing this, I muſt be ſtupified, Madame, returned I to her, not to thinke that I have an obligation

to

to her which is not easily discharged, and I should deserve nothing but ill offices from her instead of good ones, should I not seek occasion of thanking her. With wich words pulling a diamond from my finger I intreated her to wear it as pledge that I was sensible of the favours which she had done me, and she by the princesse's command accepted it.

After this, Love, instead of abasing my courage raised it, and beleiving it my duty to performe something answerable to the elevation of my affections and to the honour that the princess deigned me, I often with you, *Vindorix*, you know, saught occasions of remarkable actions, and one day especially having no more eyes than love that conducted me, I blindely precipitated myselfe into dangers, out of which had not you drawne me, I cannot see but that I had in all probability perisht. Returning victorious to the City, the paines which we had taken in the fight requiring that we should a little rest our selves, we as you may remember left one another to go to our several lodgings. Come to mine, it was not many moments that I had shut my selfe into my closet and laid me downe upon my couch, not so much to repose my selfe as to thinke of *Floriſa*, when one of her pages brought me this letter from her.

Floriſa to Alcidor.

I Have heard ſuch great things of the enterpriſe that you come from making upon our enemyes, and of the ſucceſs that you have gained over them, that the affection which I bear you carries me to rejoyce at them. But there is nevertheleſs that which troubles me extremely, it is a continuall feare that you ſhould fall a victime on the feild of battell, or at leaſt receive ſome horrid wound. What ill offices does your valour render me? Reſtraine, I conjure you, this heate of fighting, reſt your ſelfe from your labours, and ſend me word how you doe, and if your health is in that condition that I wiſh it, come to ſee me to morrow morning.

In anſwer to theſe lines I drew and ſent theſe that follow.

Alcidor to the Princeſs Floriſa.

Madam,

YOu make me bluſh with the Eulogies that you give me and with the care that you take of me. I am altogether undeſerving of them: but the imployment in which I am, ſuffers me not to bee leſs active than I am, and if I have made ſally without your command, it is becauſe the good of the publicke required it. Excuſe

cuſe the affection that I beare it, ſince it does not in the leaſt diminiſh that which I have for the moſt deſerving Princeſs that the ſun beholds. For my health I never felt myſelfe better, and ſhall not faile to waite upon you at the time that you appoint to render you an account of my actions.

Going the next morning and ſurprizing her in bed with *Leonora* entertaining her, after ſhe had made me take a ſeate by her bedsſide and given me her hand, which without conſidering that it was too much for me to attempt, I kiſt when I tooke it, I at her command gave her a relation of the ſalley which we the day before had made. While we were talking about which, her hands playing with my locks, her boſome by ſtealth diſcovered it ſelfe with beauties which I greedily fed upon with my eyes, but of which I durſt not owne the reliſh which I had in my mind. The reſpect indeed which I had for her put a ſtrict bridle upon all my carriage towards her: which ſhe obſerving, as if on purpoſe to make me uſe more familiarity with her, ſhe uſed more than formerly with me. I tooke the overture and imprinted an hundred hot kiſſes on her hand; which ſhe allowing I ventured the ſame to her face and met with

no repulſe. Our careſſes thus riſing by degrees but no higher than was fitting, they were ready to melt away my ſoule with delight, when a ſtop was put to them by the coming in of the Governor of the Town. Hee held diſcourſes to her about her Uncle *Lucimon*, and they were of ſuch concernement as required her to write to him. Which being done, and the Governor gone, ſhe told me ſhe would riſe. I withdrew therefore into the antichamber, where meeting with her Gentleman, I, while ſhe was dreſſing, entertained myſelfe with him, and learnt a great many things of him; particularly whatſoever craft he uſed to hide it, I obſerved that he had a deſigne of diſcovering whether or no the Princeſs loved me. To make me diſcloſe he told me that never had ſhe eſteemed any man ſo much as me, and that ſhe had allwayes my name and actions in her mouth. To this I anſwerd, that it was proper to thoſe that were great to ſpeake well of thoſe that were mean, to the end to make their own vertue ſhine more clearely, and to ſhew by commending thoſe that have little merite that they know how to give true and juſt prayſes to them who deſerve them, and that if ſhe at all conſiderd me I well knew it was

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only becauſe ſhe was ſo good as to thinke that I might poſſibly bee helpfull to the defence of the City. *Placidas* not finding my diſcourſe ſuitable to his expectation, turned his tongue to other ſubjects; but I inſenſibly grew upon him and at laſt brought him to advertiſe me that *Lucimon* had by a letter which he had lately written to him, given him charge watchfully to obſerve all the actions of his neice, and withall to ſhew me the letter; reading which I ſaw that the viſits which I made to *Floriſa* were knowne to that prince and ſuſpected by him. Having thus learnt of him what it was, very conducible to my advantage to know, I with the beſt arguments that I could uſe perſuaded him to be faithfull to his princeſs and to informe her of whatſoever he ſhould know was practiſed to her detriment: particularly I adviſed him to give her notice preſently of that which her Uncle had wrote to him, but without ſignifying to her that I knew any thing of it, adding that I ſhould ſo well manage the tenure of my cariage for the future that *Lucimon* ſhould finde nothing in it to cenſure.

According to my adviſe as ſoone as *Placidas* knew that he might enter the princeſſe's Chamber he went to her and gave her the

ſame intelligence that he had given me. Upon which ſending him immediately for me, ſcarce was I within her Chamber dore but ſhe told me before him what he had told her, not without diſcovering an extreame diſcompoſure, and ſaying all that could bee ſaid againſt a man, againſt *Lucimon*. After ſhe had by words and teares diſharged ſome of her vexation, I, with the reſpect that was due to her and with the beſt motives that I could thinke of, intreated her not to be troubled at the buſineſs, adjoining that rather than ſhe ſhould by occaſion of me receive any thing of diſpleaſure, if my being deprived of her ſight would remedye it, though it would be a greater puniſhment to me than I knew how to live under, I would without diſputing it baniſh my ſelfe from her preſence. Hearing me ſay ſo, I am ſo far, *Alcidor*, reparted ſhe to me, from having a minde that you ſhould abſent yourſelfe from me becauſe of *Lucimon*, that I would have you doe me the kindneſs of viſiting me oftener then heretofore, that being ſo ill treated by an uncle I may amidſt my unhappineſſe have the conſolation of being ſuccoured by one who hath no tie upon him to doe it. Could it not ſuffice him to have ſhut me up in this miſerable City

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which two potent Princes have for the object of their indignation, and which could not keep it ſelfe from falling under their power, if yourvalour and conduct forbad it not, without going about to double my impriſonment by reſtraining me from ſeeing thoſe who can give my ſpirit ſome relaxation? what ſtrange Barbarouſneſs is this and how little uſed by an Uncle to a neice? Does he feare that I have a minde to take from him the pretenſions which he makes to the kingdom and to place the crowne upon *Alcidor's* head, that he would not have him come neare me? He is indeed abundantly worthy of a ſcepter, but both his intentions and mine are juſter and more moderate than to aſpire to any ſuch thing, was it, as it is not, in our power to attaine it. No, No *Alcidor*, added ſhe to me, you muſt not forſake me, it would be too much cruelty in you to abandon a Princeſs that breathes not, but by your aſſiſtance, and expects not her deliverance but by your meanes. In reſponſe to this I ſaid all to her that love and duty could ſuggeſt to me, to demonſtrate to her my zeale of living and dying for her. All which, both what ſhe ſaid and I, *Placidas* hearing, and not being able to hear without being certaine that there was a more than ordi-

ordinary kindeneſs between us; he humbly offered her to ſerve her to the utmoſt of his capacity againſt her Uncle; and being thereupon commanded by her to eſteem me as one to whom ſhe had great obligations, he intreated me to beleive that I was Maſter of his heart and that he would never have any other inclinations than to doe me all the good offices that he could. After which he and *Leonora* leaving us together, we conferred a while about *Lucimon*, thence we proceeded to teſtifie our affections to one another, I with the beſt language that I could put together, and ſhe with as many favours as her vertue and modeſty would allow her to beſtow upon me. She withall enjoined me not to ſpeak a ſyllable of our correſpondencies to any body; no, not to *Pindorix*, ſaid ſhe, for he is too much affected with glory to like that you ſhould ingage your ſelfe in love at a time ſo proper for Armes. This is the ſole reaſon why I have till now concealed from you my love and the good fortune that I have had in it; You therefore ought not to take it ill from me, eſpecially conſidering that *Floriſa* hath no ſooner given me liberty of acquainting you with the ſecret (for it was but this afternoone that ſhe gave it me) but I have made

uſe

uſe of it to let you ſee that I have nothing of concerne which I am willing to reſerve from your knowledge. To this I anſwered that I lookt upon the injunction which the Princeſs had laid upon him, not as an effect of her ill will to me, but as a fruite of her prudence which obliged her to diſtruſt all the world in an affaire of ſo much conſequence, that I ſhould have thought it very ill done of him if he had not obeyed it, and that I had a better ſenſe of the favour that ſhe had done me in giving him leave to impart ſo much to me as he now had done, than ever to imploy it otherwiſe than to both their advantages.

I having ſaid ſo, ſince that time, went he on, I have very often been with her without any body having cogniſance of it but *Placidas* and *Leonora*, and I was never with her but ſhe gave me demonſtrations of her affection towards me, which as they bred in me a rich delight, were enough alſo to have begot in me a moſt fond vaine-glory, if by a ſober reflection upon my ſelfe I had not been throughly acquainted with my unworthineſs of them. That you may ſee, how far I am in her eſteeme; added he, ſtepping to a little boxe of pearl taking a paper out of it and bringing it to

me,

me, read theſe few lines. Doing as he deſired me, I found they held ſuch ſenſe as this.

Though poſſibly there bee few pretenſions of marriage ſo exalted, which my birth would not authorize me to make, the worth which continually repreſents it ſelfe to me in you hath ſo much of magneticke influence upon me that my heart cannot keep it ſelfe from being drawne and tied faſt to you and that I cannot forbeare telling you ſo. And this you ſhall never faile of knowing, ſo long as you render your ſelfe capable of doing ſo. But make no ill judgment of my freeneſſe, for my virtue is no otherwiſe intereſted by my affection than it ought to be, and as it is moſt true that I love you, ſo is it alſo that I love you in ſuch a manner as chaſtity and ſageneſs allow, and that I looke you ſhould continue in the tearmes of reſpect that are due to me.

When I had done reading theſe words, not to detaine you any longer with this concerne, adjoined *Alcidor*, I am at preſent mounted to the higheſt ſtep of happineſs that a vertuous love without marriage is able to bring me to, and, if I may ſay ſo with-

without imputation of arrogance, I have reaſon to thinke that I may be to morrow the husband of *Floriſa*, if I will. She every day indeed preſſes me to be ſo, and though I upon a manifold conſideration beleive that I ſhall never have her for my wife I have promiſed to make her ſo as ſoon as the ſeige is raiſed, and in the meane time to prepare my ſelfe for it by gaining as large a ſtock of honour as I can.

He thus concluding his diſcourſe to me, I told him that he had certainly done very well in ſatisfying the princeſs with thoſe aſſurances that ſhe deſired, and that I made no great queſtion but the terme which he had taken for marrying her would produce ſuch a revolution of affaires as would ſet him at liberty to doe in that affaire according as he ſhould ſee cauſe. Then, not thinking it fitting to counſell a man whom his diſcretion made him act well in every thing, I onely let him know how deeply I accounted my ſelfe in his debt, for communicating to me the particularities of his affections, and preſently we parted.

Having ſuch within our walls as practiſed for *Polianis* and carried on conſpiracies of moment enough to have quickly deſtroyed

us if we had not happily ſmelt them out and provided againſt them, we were eight dayes in remedying this deſeaſe which done we made our beſeigers ſee that wee had not lay ſtill but to take breath that we might fall upon them with the more life, cutting our way up to their trenches, putting them into a great diſorder and bringing backe a great number of priſoners.

There was againe nothing worth mentioning attempted on our ſide till one day *Alcidor* without me, whither I was otherwiſe buſied or that he had ſome other reaſon not to take me along with him, iſſued out of the Town accompanied onely with ten volunteers that put themſelves under his conduct. They were preſently ſet upon by twice as many and were at length conſtrained to give way to their ſtrength and retire. But before *Alcidor* made his owne retreat, he by amuzing the enemy gave his party leaſure to make theirs. Upon which occaſion ſtaying a little too long behind, after he had maintained fight as long as he was able, to put himſelfe out of the danger that he was in, he leaped his horſe over a great ditch; Thereupon one of thoſe whom he had to deale with vainely enough upbraided him that he had the advantage of making him fly.

fly. To him, the advantage is returned *Alcidor*, that you are so many, were you a little fewer you should quickly see me come backe to you. It shall be your fault if you come not, said the other againe, for I promise you, you shall have to doe with none but me: try the adventure and you shall see I will attend you as it in honour becomes *Lisimax*. Hearing him say so, *Alcidor* was about to jumpe backe to him, but he at the instant perceived about halfe a score horsemen galloping to intercept his way; he therefore set spurs to his horse and retired.

Got into the Town he came and recounted to me what had befallen him: he told me withall that *Lisimax* being the favourite of *Florimen* and of an applauded name, and there, therefore being a great measure of glory to be gotten by a single combate with him, he resolved to demand it of him. The reasons which he alleadged for his resolution inducing me to approve it, after I had intreated him to let me be his second but could not obtaine it of him, we concluded that it was necessary for him to have the consent of the Princess and of the Counsell of warr in the business; and we went first to the Princess, to whom he declaring that his

honour

honour put him upon a duell with *Liſimax*; ſhe before me could not forbear having her ſelfe extremely troubled at it, and endeavoured all that ſhe was able to turne him from it. But when ſhe ſaw ſhe could not pervail with him, Goe then, ſaid ſhe to him, and fight this Giant, and heaven reſerve for you the victory. From her we went to the Governour, at whoſe houſe the cheif officers being convened, *Alcidor* propounded to them what he deſired and without difficulty procured their leave to doe as he thought good. From them I waited upon him home; by the way whither, The King, ſaid he to me, beleives *Liſimax* invincible, and ſo doe others alſo; if therefore I overcome him I ſhall acquire a glory which will not quickly dye: but if my ill fortune on the other ſide will have him triumph over me, this ſatisfaction I may pretend to, that I am vanquiſht by one of the braveſt Cavaleirs of our age. It is almoſt impoſſible that you ſhould not conquer him, replyed I to him, ſo much advantaged as you are. Was there indeed nothing but the favour of *Floriſa* that is enough to make you irreſiſtable, and I make no doubt but the prayers which ſhe ſends up for you will be heared and draw down upon you the bleſſing of heaven. We

We were in theſe tearms when we came to his lodgings; where he making me ſtay and ſup with him, during ſupper I againe ſet upon him with the beſt rhetorike that I had to perſuade him to make me of his party, but all to no effect. Riſen from table we went into his cloſet, where he giving me a book to reade, I had not peruſed many lines, before he had drawn theſe and came and ſhewed them me.

Alcidor *to* Liſimax.

YOu may well remember what yeſterday paſt betweene us, and you live in a higher reputation than to beleive any thing meane of yourſelfe. If therefore you can get leave of the King as I have done of thoſe upon whom I depend, it ſhall lye upon you if I come not to day to fight you at the head of your army. You are a better man at armes than to refuſe to fight with Lance and Sword; with theſe I ſhall waite upon you if I ſhall finde your reſolution ſuch as I deſire it. I ſhall expect it with impatience, yet am better aſcertained of your valour than to beleive that you will ſhun the occaſion of making it appeare.

Having conſidered theſe words I aſſured him who askt my judgment of them that

the moderation and civility of them was ſuch as could not be betterd, and as his enemy could not but commend. Satisfied with which approbation he reſolved to think of no other language but to ſend it the next morning as it was. I could ſcarce ſleep all the night, I was ſo reſtleſs to ſee again the day and *Alcidor*; going to him aſſoon as I could get up after it was light, I found him riſen and upon the point of ſending his chalenge. It was carried by a Herauld with ceremony enough, and it was receaved by *Liſimax* with as much Candor, who after he had been with the King ſent back this anſwer.

Liſimax *to* Alcidor.

I Honour your valour more than not to conſent to the deſign which it hath of trying mine. We will fight therefore to morrow at ſun riſe in the preſence of both armyes, ſince you deſire it, and I have my Kings permiſſion to doe it, and our armes ſhall be the the ſame that you have preſcribed. Thinke to defend yourſelfe well, for I have a ſtrong deſire to attaque you well; the glory will remain with the conquerour.

The Herauld bringing backe this anſwer, together with on aſſignement of the place where

where the two champions ſhould act their parts and the two armyes ſtand ſpectators, not without an aſſurance from the King, that there ſhould on his ſide be no act of hoſtility committed till all were returned to their former quarters, he having pledged the ſame in our name to the King, *Alcidor* had apparent in his face the characters of a gallant exultancy of ſpirit; the cheifs applyed themſelves to take care about the marching forth of the army the next morning, and the Princeſs had a hundred times in an hour day and night by turnes in her breaſt, what with her hopes, what with her feares. But he who gave her the occaſion of thoſe viciſſitudes, ſpending all his time with her, brought her before he left her to a more ſettled temper, and at parting received of her together with her good wiſhes a very rich ſcarf, imbroiderd with her name.

The next morning in a ſuperb array marched the army out of *Paquin* to the place appointed, where the other alſo failed not of rendring it ſelfe, *Floriſa* ſeated her ſelfe in an eminent place where ſhe might ſee the combate and be able by her regards to animate *Alcidor*. All things in ſhort were ready, and preſently appeared the two competitors of honour. Before they came

to their ſtations the King gave *Liſimax* his ſword and repreſented to him that he had an enemy who was both excellently skilfull ad valiant. The Princeſs wiſht that ſhe had had the liberty of doing ſome ſuch thing for *Alcidor*, but ſhe could doe no more than ſend him ſecretly by *Placidas* a bracelet of her hair. After this, and that I had put myſelf in the head of the cavalry of which *Alcidor* was commander, with reſolution either to dye or vanquiſh in caſe there ſhould be any treachery (though this as it afterwards appeared needed not, there being nothing attempted againſt the publike faith) *Liſimax* and *Alcidor* choſe their judges, took their places and the trumpets ſounding ran againſt one another with a ſwiftneſs like that of a furious wind. Their ſucceſs was very different; for *Alcidor* receiving the lance of *Liſimax* in the bow of his ſaddle ſo that it flew in peices, he with his owne lance peirced his horſes ſhoulder and belly, with his ſword cut in pieces his bridle, and diſarmed him. Having thus almoſt in a minute diſpatched the fight, not without all the fellds and City ringing with the ſhouts of our army and people that were upon the walls, he ſent the ſword which he took from his adverſary to the King

who

who had given it him, and presently both the armyes retired, theirs to their ordinary posts, and ours into the Towne. Never man of *Alcidors* condition received more honour in a day than he did in this, by the order of the magistrates bonfires for some hours together lightened, and Canons thundred in all parts of the City; no peice of triumph was omitted that uses to accompany famous victories; the Grandees gave him complements, and all sorts of people acclamations, which declared them most pathetically transported with what he had done, and the replyes which he made to them augmented their transports with their elegancy and Generosity. But all the rest was cheap to the price of those congratulations which he received from the Princess; they were as expressive of joy in her selfe and of honour to him as her exuberant ingeny prompted with her vehement affection could dictate to her; and he in answer to them attributed all his happiness to the prayers which she had sent to heaven for him, and to the other favours that she had conferred upon him, and that with a rhetoricke, modesty, gallantry and respectfullness which gave her new occasions of extolling and caressing him.

This action of *Alcidor* coming to the knowledge of *Luſimon* and *Liſantus* was very differently received by them. *Lucimon* fearing it would prevail with his neice to conſider him yet more advantageouſly than ſhe did, vext him ſelfe at it with a moſt diſingenuous cancetous malice, and ſpeaking of it upon all occaſions moſt detractingly himſelfe, cauſed others alſo to ſpread reports of it altogether contrary to truth: but it ſhon with a more triumphant ſplendor than to be ſo obſcured. *Liſantus* on the other ſide was himſelfe continually where ever he came diſcourſing of it as of that which he could not encomiaze enough, and ſet his friends on worke alſo to proclaim to the world its grandeur. What is it more, ſaid he often, to have gained all than to have vanquiſht *Liſimax* the moſt daringly active man of his party.

But while *Alcidor* had good ſucceſs in the particular undertakings of his ſword, as alſo in his loves (for he and *Floriſa* in deſpight of *Lucimons* malignant intentions continued to live in their accuſtomed intelligences. *Placidas* who had received his commands to deſtroy them (favouring them as much as he could), the general concernement of the ſeige went on very ill on our ſide; the royall

forces

forces continually increaſt by freſh ſupplyes, ours conſumed a pace by ſickneſs and ſallyes, and we were at length brought to ſuch a paſs, that what becauſe we were for the moſt part beaten, what to preſerve our remaines wee durſt not ſtir out of the incloſure of our bullwarkes. Scarcity of victualls alſo grew upon us ſo that the people who had before only groaned privately under their ſufferings without daring to complain publickely, now mutinied for bread and rifled ſeverall houſes of the moſt noted Burgeſſes. To lay this dangerous diſturbance the Governor and thoſe others in power at whoſe nodds the large but raſcall body of the multitude was wont to move, fed them with hopes of great things which *Alcidor* and I underſtood not. Among other things they told them that if they would have but a little patience, they ſhould quickly ſee themſelves delivered from the ſeige and all their other miſeries together, and that there was but a moment almoſt to wait for that fortunat event which would render them completely happy. Preſently after when *Alcidor* and I thought of nothing but the meanes of reſiſting thoſe that begirt us and dayly grew upon us, we at counſell of war to our grand aſtoniſhment had

newes brought us that the King was killed with the ſtab of a knife. Struck with horrour at this blacke paricide, we had it redoubled at the exceſſes of joy with which we ſaw firſt the aſſembly of Officers reſent it, then moſt of the inhabitants of *Paquin* and ſtrangers that defended it, reputing it a miracle which the powers above had wrought for their ſakes. But as well workt tempers are never friends to baſeneſs, the Princeſs in our preſence regretted this tragicke fall of the ſupreme father of her countrey with as ſerious tears as ſhe had done that of her own father.

In ſequel of this moſt proditorious aſſaſinate *Lucimon*, who had alone as much pleaſure in his ſoul at it as had all the whole rebellion together, not daring to ſtep the next way into the throne himſelfe, though profoundly deſigning to doe it in effect, gave the title of King to Prince *Dolimbus* who was priſoner; and, *Polianis* drawing of his forces from the ſeige of *Paquin* to carry on expeditions neceſſary to his regall intereſts, thither he came, and conveighed away his neice thence, ſhutting up in priſon *Placidas*, whom he ſuſpected of being a freind to her intimacies with *Alcidor*, and ſuffering only *Leonora* to continue

ſtill

ſtill in her ſervice. Where he placed her *Alcidor* was not able to finde out; exaſperated at which and at his ill uſage of her upon his account, he had taken a ſeyere revenge upon him for it, had he not been hindred by the high authority that guarded him: he was how ſoever about to forſake his party when *Liſantus* came to him and refixt him to it by conjurations too ſtrong to be broken through. *Alcidor* being pervailed with to ſticke cloſe to the ſide of that illuſtrious man, I reſolved to run the ſame courſe with him, they both ſtrictly enough obliging me to it. But as if good fortune had a mind that I ſhould withdraw from that pernicious revolt which I had too long aſſiſted, I was by a dangerous ſickneſs which I fell into conſtrained to quit both *Liſantus* and *Alcidor*, and retire home, where I continued a long time ill. This, cozin, ended *Vindorix*, bowing to *Dorame*, is all that I am able to tell you of the adventures of your lover more particularly than can my Lord our Uncle; I ſhall therefore here leave off to give him way to accompliſh the relation of them.

At theſe concluding words of *Vindorix* *Rolimon* preparing himſelfe to carry on what he had begun, *Dorame* motion'd, conſidering they

they had been a great while ſhut up in a chamber, to defer a little the proſecution of the narrative and goe take the aire: that which the company approving, after a collation brought in and ended they walkt abroad. But before they had ſpent halfe an houre in their walk there fell a great rain which forced them to take covert, and there they continued in various converſe till they were called to ſupper. Supper done they at *Dorame*'s requeſt returned to the place where *Vindorix* had performed his part of the ſtory, and there *Rolimon* having ſeated himſelf with the others by him, went on with his part to this effect.

Polianis juſtly irritated by the murder committed on the ſacred perſon of his ſovereigne and brother-in-law *Florimen* decreed to take revenge of it or to periſh in ſeeking it. Being alſo the next man of his line, he reſolved to ſucceed him in the throne or to be laid with him in the duſt in attempting it. Carried by the intereſt of which determinations from the ſeige of *Paquin* into the Province of *Xanton* and being, to ſtop his progreſs, followed thither by *Lucimon*, he marched up to him, defeated his army and drove him to ſeek his ſafety in a diſhonorable flight. Purſuing his victory

ctory he drew up again to *Paquin*, took the ſuburbs, gained other conqueſts and advantages, and compelled *Lucimon* to run before him as if he carried lightning in his hand to chaſtiſe him. In none of theſe unfortunat proceedings was *Alcidor*, for though *Lucimon* earneſtly endeavoured to have him with him, whither the more eaſily to deſtroy him or the better to have an eye upon his actions, he would never march under his conduct, but gave himſelfe wholly to *Liſantus* who being ingaged in as weighty imployments as any other of his party had himſelfe a particular army under him. But the notable ſucceſſes of *Polianis* cauſing *Lucimon*, *Liſantus* and all the other captaines of the league to make one body of their forces, and the conſideration of their numbers in which they far exceeded *Polianis*, rayſing their courages, which the abundance of blood ſpilt in the laſt celebrated battel had drawn low, and carrying them to venture another feild with him; it was in that memorable day that *Alcidor* practiſed all the offenſive and defenſive gallantries of war, that he flew among the rankes, overturning them, ſlaughtering them, breaking them in peices like a ſwiftwinged thunder, that he carried victory whither ſoever he carried his

his ſword. He indeed performed ſo much both of the commander and ſouldior that thoſe againſt whom he performed it with a generall conſent cried out, At the blue ſcarfe, (It was *Floriſa*'s kindeneſs which dreſt him with that remark), on his being overcom depends our conqueſt; and accordingly all that had courage exerciſed it againſt him; *Polianis* in particular diſcharged piſtolls with him and laboured all that he could to make him his priſoner, but he was bravely ſuccoured by *Liſantus*. In ſhort, I have heard a Cavaleir of his troop ſay, who was in this occaſion mained for the reſt of his life, that with ſome volunteers who accompanied him into the hotteſt of the fight he kept the fortune of the day a great while in ballance. But having had two brothers who fought by his ſide and did, like him, things worthy of moſt laſting monument for the uncommoneſs of them, killed by it (the one of them carried his bowells a long time in his hand, the other when he was dropping from his horſe turned upon the enemy that he might die facing them) and being ſet upon on all ſides, he was at length filled with wounds which cauſed him to be carried out of the battell. His ill fortune was the whole armies of which

he

he was, their efforts, as if they could not fight without him, languiſht as ſoon as he was gone, and there being no body that fought with the aire of *Alcidor* but the redoubtable *Liſantus*, *Polianis* every where traverſt the phalanxes and battalions with a force which quickly compelled thoſe againſt whom he imployed it to put their noſe in the earth with a rout and loſs the moſt notorious that they ever before received.

While *Alcidor* kept his bed of his wounds ſome of his neighbours who were his enemies having knowledge that he was unable to ſtir, and that his brothers were ſlain, brought to one of his houſes, lying a dayes journey from *Paquin*, *Indians* that ſet fire to it and burnt it. This malicious act not having the power to trouble his great minde ſo much but that within a few weekes he was got perfectly well, as ſoon as he was ſo, he watch fully obſerved the marches of thoſe that had done it and within a few dayes met with them as he deſired. Having a troop of ſelect men with him he fell upon them with a violence by which they who were acquainted with the blowes of *Liſantus* and *Alcidor* might eaſily have gueſt him to be one of them, againſt which notwithſtanding, thinking of nothing leſs than thoſe

two

two renowned warriors, and only imagining that they had to doe with a troop who had met them by chance they at first made a resistance stout enough; but he lifting up his visour and naming himselfe to them, they immediately betook themselves to flight as their best defence. They fled some one wayes some another with all the speed that a guilty conscience and a feare of punishment could give them: but he, from whom they fled, and his company pursued them every way with such a swift and well managed fury that they had in a moment or two got them into their power. Which done, could you think, you barbarous people, cried he to them, that heaven would leave unpunished the outrage that you have done me? or could you beileve that I was so void of a soul as not to be sensible of it, or such a coward as not to seek you out? saying so, he ordered a dozen of them to be bound to trees, and causing fire and straw to be brought represented to them the just reason that he had to burn them in requitall of their burning of his house. There being not one of them that did not sentence himselfe as sufficiently deserving this punishment, they perpared themselves to die: but when they were surrendring themselves

to

to the flames, I content myſelfe, ſaid he to them, cauſing them to be releaſed and cutting ſome of their bands himſelfe, to have made you affraid and given you to ſee that it is in my hands to deprive you of life; live and learne henceforward to doe well; I give you your liberty to goe whither you have a mind. Treated thus by him whom they had uſed moſt unworthily they expreſt to him a repentance of their offence which baniſht all ill remembrance of it out of his mind, they adored him as one of more than humane goodneſs and ſuperſtitiouſly enough to have raiſed temples and altars to him, if they had judged he would have liked it, they went home with reſolutions never to give blow againſt the party of which he was, and after they had been a little time there came and preſented to him in reparation of the dammage that he had ſuſtained by their meanes a conſiderable ſum of money: but he would by no meanes be brought to receive it, telling them that that which he valued was their freindſhip and not their coine. It is true though he refuſed their ſilver, he could not but accept of other preſents which they urged upon him of horſes and armes.

After this rendring himſelfe with *Liſantus* who

who from the ſcatterings of the laſt feild had gathered together a conſiderable body both of horſe and foot, and ſeeking occaſions of keeping his ſword in exerciſe, he one day going abroad with only fifty Gentlemen met two companies of Carabins of four-ſcore men apeice. At ſight of whom examining the courage of thoſe that were with and finding it ſuch as he deſired, he ranged them in two ſquadrons and having orderd them to follow him ſlowly and when he gave the ſignall to come up and charge, one the one company and the other the other, rode a little on before them. The enemy ſeeing him, very advantageouſly horſt as he was, come ſtraight up to them upon a ſmall gallop, all at once made their ſalute to him; and in return to it he and his followers were in an inſtant upon them, gave them a volley of ſhot with which many of them tumbled, and falling in amidſt the confuſion with an impetuoſity which is not to be expreſt, quickly laid a great number of them more upon the ground, and forced the reſt, to yeild themſelves priſoners part of them, part of them to fly.

Polianis in the interim, not blinding himſelfe with his proſperities, but preciſely obſerving the motions of his enemies and managing

ging his affaires according to the beſt maximes and rules of prudence, when having endeavoured to concile his people to his governement by ſweetneſs, he ſaw himſelfe forced by their obſtinacy to uſe ſteele and blood, he laid ſeige anew to *Paquin*, not without the inhabitants riſing in his cauſe, nor without their being ſtilled and drawne back from him by the Governor and Magiſtrates. For the better defence of it *Lucimon* would have had *Alcidor* put himſelf again into it; but *Floriſa* was not there to oblige him to doe ſo, and he had been too ill uſed by that prince to obſerve his deſire. He kept in the feild, where making continuall courſes to and fro, he moleſted the Kings forces more than any of his party. In particular having gotten certain intelligence that at ſuch a time there would be a broad an important convoy of the enemy conſiſting of three hundred horſe and as many Fantaſſins, and which way they would paſs, he put himſelfe with two hundred horſe in ambuſcade in a wood, and there attending till they came, when he ſaw his time charged the Cavalry with a fury which they were not able to reſiſt but were routed, cut in peices and taken: the Fantaſſins in the mean time ſaving themſelves by help of

the wood, but leaving what they were conveighing to the diſpoſall of the conqueror. Among thoſe that were taken were *Melampas* and *Corilus*, Lords whom *Alcidor* knew and who were retiring from the Kings army upon the account of ill health. To them he reſtored their liberty and cauſed all their equipage alſo to be returned, for which they have ever ſince been of the number of the beſt friends that he hath had in the world. A great man who obſerved him after the fight leaning againſt a tree with his armes ſhining with ſilver, with his ſword in his hand bloody up to the hilt and with the viſour of his cask put up and diſcovering his face hath ſeverall times ſince ſaid, that he could not imagine a more gracefull ſight then he than appeared to him, or a more perfect reſemblance of Mars taking breath after a conqueſt. At this defeat of his men the King was very much troubled, but being of a diſpoſition that carried him to commend brave actions he highly extolled this of *Alcidor* and named him one of the moſt gallant men of his ſide.

The miſeries of *Paquin* being at length by the preſſures of the ſeige grown to incredible extremities, all things ſeemed inclined to put it into the hands of *Polianis*, and its

grand

grand, officers urged by the mutinous and mournfull cryes of all ſorts of people and by their own neceſſities, were treating with him about a ſpeedy ſurrender when they were incouraged ſo ſtand out a while longer by intelligence which they had brought them that *Oſtravius* was coming apace with a potent army to releive them; And they were not diſappointed, for within a few dayes the King drew of all his forces to go offer that famed Captaine battel; but he would not be drawn to venture ſuch a dangerous caſt, thinking it enough to ſuccour the cheif Town, and take ſome others and retire; Nor was *Polianis* able either to force him to doe the on, or to hinder him from doing the other. Seeing which he fell to work with ſeverall ſmall Towns and took them, and ſome of great conſequence: he made preparations alſo for invironing *Xanton*; which when *Oſtravius* and *Lucimon* could no longer doubt of, they commended that Rivall of *Paquin* to the tuition of *Liſantus* and *Alcidor*; *Liſantus* in quality of Governor and *Alcidor* as his aſſiſtant, and they diſcharged their truſt with ſtupendious performances: whatſoever honour put them upon they failed not of under-

taking and whatſoever they undertook they failed not of having crowned with honour: they by a ſalley which they made forced the army that begirt them to withdraw to a good diſtance from the walls, and though they were afterwards brought into great ſtraights for want of victualls they notwithſtanding held it undauntedly out till the aforeſaid princes came and compelled the King to riſe from before them and leave them at liberty.

A while after the King, being infinitely troubled that he could ſee no good end in the proſpect which lay before him of his people's obſtinacies and miſeries, to undeceive it poſſible thoſe who had left themſelves to be abuſed by the ſpecious pretexts that were ſet up againſt him, and by that meanes ſtifle that hidra of the rebellion whoſe heads recruited as faſt as he lopt them of, publiſht a declaration which ſerved very happily for a foundation of that obedience which many of his ſubjects that were in arms againſt him were preparing for him in their minds. It particularly put *Liſantus* and *Alcidor* upon conſidering and weighing of things which they had before very little or not at all thought of. But being the principall ſprings by which the

Union

Union moved, they thought it not noble to leave in the lurch thoſe that depended upon them, and who could not long ſubſiſt but would be utterly undone without them. They therefore kept on their way with their wonted vigor, but *Alcidor* not with his wonted ſucceſs. Whither Fortune had a mind to caſt a blot amidſt his glories that ſo he might not boaſt he had impeded her from her changeableneſs of motion, or whither heaven thought fit to animadvert upon him for uſing his ſword againſt his rightfull ſoveraignes *Florimen* and *Polyanis* by a croſs adventure which ſhould take it out of his hand, he happened to be encountred by a force which gave him the hotteſt work that he had ever had experience of. They were many of them that were met Commanders of known courage and addreſs, there was no body who did not chooſe rather to die than flie; it is impoſſible as I have heard him ſay ever to ſee weightier blowes and more manfull attaques and reſiſtances than were than to be ſeen, and if one party was ready to be Victor one moment the other releived it ſelfe and was ready to give the law the next. But in the end *Alcidor* having done all that man could doe, he had his horſe killed under him and was himſelfe

overthrown upon the ground with him; in which posture being summoned to yeeld he had nothing to answer, but that the case in which he was constrained him so to doe. Being demanded his name, considering that he had too many enemies in the Kings army he judged it prudent to conceal it and called himself *Belompus*.

At this Period *Rolimon* addressing himself to his neice, These, cozen, said he, are the most remarkable adventures which I have any intimacy with of your new lover, and judge if I have not spoken well of him in favour of whose rivall I came to wait upon you. There are some things in the world, Sir, replied *Dorame* to him, of which one cannot hold one's peace, and the passages of *Alcidor*'s life being of this kind, it is truth and justice which have compelled you to say what you have said. But I cannot yet be contented unless I hear what became of *Florisa* and whither *Alcidor* saw her not during the time of his activity abroad. You cannot know this so well of any body as of *Alcidor* himself, said *Vindorix* to her, but was he here the question is whither you have the power

to

to obtaine the recitall of him. The queſtion is rather, ſaid *Melian*, whether he hath the power of refuſing her any thing, and certainly when he ſhall know that we have in his abſence entertained our ſelves with what we know of his concernements he will not refuſe to entertain us himſelf with what we know not of them. However ſince we have no more to relate of him, reſumed *Vindorix*, let us by my conſent take our way to bed, and ſtay no longer with my cozen, to whom dayes, nights, ages would be no more than moments if one ſhould all the while hold her with diſcourſes concerning him. You ſpeake, Cozen, returned *Dorame* to him, as if you was little skilled in obliging women, or elſe as if you had more ſharpeneſs for me than if I had no relation to you. But poſſibly I ſhall not be ſo unhappy as not to finde an opportunity of revenging myſelf upon you. I make no queſtion, ſaid he again to her, but I ſhall have patience enough to bear whatſoever ill offices you ſhall have a mind to doe me, aſſuring myſelf that they will not be overgreat becauſe I am *Alcidor*'s freind. To this *Dorame* going about to repart, I ſee, ſaid *Rolimon*, it is

neceſſary that I ſhould break off this conteſt which will otherwiſe not at all regard how late the hours grow or know when to make an end, and therewith roſe from his ſeat; which the reſt doing after his example, they bad good night and went to bed.

The End of the ſecond Book.

The

The Third Book.

THe next morning *Dorame* riſing early enough to make her gueſts ſee that it was not lazineſs which had kept her ſo long in bed the day before, as ſoon as ſhe was dreſt, ſhe went to take her Uncle *Rolimon* in his chamber; but ſhe found that he was together with *Vindorix* and *Melian* gon to walk in the garden. She going thither to them, I hope, my neice, began *Rolimon* to her, the ſame phantaſmes have not troubled you this night that did the former. I can never ſleep with more tranquillity, anſwered ſhe to him, than I have don to night, and if any thing came in my mind when I was awake more than ordinary it was only what you have recounted to me of *Alcidor*, and ſome feares I muſt confeſs leaſt

leaſt by the way hither he ſhould be met by ſome freind of *Cartagenes* and called to an account for his death. Diſturb not your mind with thoſe ſuſpicions, replyed *Rolimon* to her, for he hath in this province a more redoubted name than that any body ſhould quickly be as raſh as was *Cartagenes* to commit the like indiſcretion of aſſaulting him. Have you then ſo ill an opinion of the courage of *Cloriaſtes*, ſaid *Dorame* to him ſmiling, as to beleive that he will not fight upon my account. I hold him for a man of heart, returned *Rolimon* to her, but ſince he knowes not that *Alcidor* is your Lover, would you have me imagin that there will be a combat between two perſons who have nothing of quarrell. Let us not amuze ourſelves in prognoſticating a miſcheif of which there is no probability that it ſhould quickly, if at all, fall out, but let us think of ſeeing *Alcidor* here at dinner; for my part I have ſtrong hopes that we ſhall, for I am ſure there is nothing of expedition which he will not uſe when he knowes that you deſire to ſee him. The night had not ſhades ſo thick as to hinder him from travailling, and beſides when he undertakes any thing, he makes his way through all, nor

woodes,

woods, nor rocks nor pitchy darkeneſſes are unpaſſable to him. I have practiſed him enough to know him, and I ſpeak no more than what I know to be true of him.

To this *Dorame* was going to ſay ſomething, when they ſaw enter the coverd walk where they ſat *Limonides* with a look though not ſo overcaſt as when he brought the newes of the death of *Cartagenes*, yet very legibly inſcribed with ſomething of ſadneſs. As ſoon as he came near them, have you ſome new unhappineſs, prevented him *Rolimon*, to informe us of that you carry ſo melancholick a face? Have your pains been unprofitable in ſeeking *Alcidor*? or have you met with him, and ſome ill hath befallen him? *Almidon*, Sir, replyed *Limonides* to him, hath followed *Cartagenes*; *Alcidor* hath made him pay at the point of the ſword for the outrage that he did him in reporting what was falſe of him to *Cartagenes*. What fighting is here, cryed *Dorame* ſighing? This is not the way to let us quickly ſee *Alcidor* as we expected. This will not all retard his coming, Madam, ſaid *Limonides* to her, you will ſee him with you within an hour. You tell me what will be enough to my contentment *Limonides*, ſaid ſhe in anſwer to him,

him, provided it proves true. There is nothing in the world more true, Madam, returned *Limonides* to her, than that he intends it. I shal make no more question of it, replied *Dorame* to him, but tell us what you know of his fighting with *Almidon*. Being conducted, Madam, said *Limonides*, by *Alcidors* lacquey to the house of *Meonimus* (a freind of his) which is not far distant from that, which was my Masters while he lived, nor from that also of *Almidon*, I there found him and delivered to him your Letter; which when he had read he told me there was no cure that I could have brought him like that for the greif with which he resented my Masters death. Saying little else but that little, enough to make me perceive that he had some-business which he was in hast to dispatch with somebody, he jumpt on horseback and galloped away. To see whither he went I followed him with as much speed as I could without being perceived by him; but I was not able for some time to set eye upon him. At length I discerned him above a hundred paces from me with his sword in his hand against a man whom at that distance I know not. Riding as hard as I could to the place I had scarce discoverd his

his adverſary to be *Almidon*, but I ſaw him run into the body by him and fall. When *Alcidor* ſaw me by them, confeſs before *Limonides*, *Almidon*, ſaid he, the wrong that you have don me in reporting to his Maſter thoſe things that were the occaſion of his death. I can by no meanes excuſe, returned *Almidon* to him, what you charge me with, and therefore if I may ſay that I forgive what is juſt, I forgive you the wound which you have given me, and which is apace letting out my ſoule. At theſe words *Alcidor* dropping ſome teares upon his misfortune as he had don upon my Maſters, ſtopt his wound with his handkercheif, ſet him upon his horſe and conveighed him to the houſe from which we came. There we ſaid, as *Almidon* deſired us to ſay, and ſaid himſelfe that an enemy who had met him by chance had given him his hurt, and the Maſter of the houſe endeavouring to inform himſelf of the name of that enemy he would never tell him, but deſired him to content himſelf with this that he was a gallant man who had juſt occaſion to ſet upon him, and that he died ſatisfied with him, not knowing how to complain of his action which he was free and valiant. He ſaid but little more and died

in the armes of *Alcidor*, who, his eyes being cloſed, commanded me back to you with aſſurance that as ſoon as he had taken order to have him caried home, he would come away by the light of the moon to render himſelf with you.

Limonides having ſaid thus and holding his tongue, It is indeed *Alcidors* happineſs, ſaid *Dorame*, that thoſe whom he fights with and kills die his freinds, but I am, notwithſtanding, that very much troubled at theſe occurrences. That, ſaid *Rolimon*, is the part of honeſt perſons that come to be ſo unfortunat, and theſe incounters indeed, ſaid *Vindorix*, though they are to be accounted good in regard that *Alcidor* hath had the better in them, yet they are not ſo in regard that two men, and one of them a man of true gallantry, have in a privat quarrell loſt their lifes by his hand. But we ſhall have the leſs reaſon to be troubled provided *Cloriaſtes* increaſes not the number of thoſe unfortunats: and we have reaſon to hope that he will not, becauſe at preſent he does not think that he hath any occaſion of falling out with *Alcidor*, and if he ſhould think ſo hereafter, he muſt alſo think that to fight with him is not but to augment his trophes. For one to have

two

two ſuch combats one upon the heels of another ſaid *Melian*, and in both to kill his adverſaries without being at the coſt of a drop of blood, does not uſually happen; but it is to *Alcidor* that it hath happened and that hinders it from being a wonder. A great reaſon of his good ſucceſs, ſaid *Dorame*, ſurely is becauſe he drew not his ſword but upon a juſt cauſe; for who can deny but he had right on his ſide in both theſe duells, in the one as being aſſaulted, in the other as being outraged. No man, Cozen, ſaid *Rolimon* to her, can with juſtice condemn him for what he hath don and if any man ſhould have either ſo much malice or ſo little judgment as to ſpeak ill of him for it, he would finde enough ready to revenge it upon him. But let us withdraw hence to wait for him in the houſe, as ſhady as this place is the rayes of the ſun peircing it, and beginning to ſet it on fire.

Removed into the houſe, they for ſome time held converſation upon ſeverall worthy things which *Cartagenes* had done, and then *Dorame* turned it to *Floriſa* and *Alcidor*, ſpeaking very much in commendation of the former for regarding the merit rather than the birth of the latter, though reſerving the

the quality of Prince, ſhe knew he was iſſued of one of the beſt families of the kingdom and of him they were ſpeaking when he came into the room where they were. At the ſight of one another he and *Dorame* were ſtruck into a little ſtupor, which being quickly diſſipated and ſalutations performed, you have ſince you left us, Sir, ſaid ſhe to him, been to us the cauſe and the object of more than ordinary apprehenſions; my Uncle and Cozens who came hither two dayes ſince have been both witneſſes and partners of them; but was there a neceſſity that you ſhould abuſe us by making ſhadow to us of going to agree ſome freinds and engaging yourſelf in mortall quarrells? I hope, Madam, interrupted her *Alcidor*, *Limonides* hath not done me the ill office to conceal what paſt between his Maſter and me? He hath given us a full account of it, Sir, ſaid *Rolimon* to him, but my neice taking a particular intereſt in your preſervation, therefore ſets thus upon you, that ſhe may perſuade you not to be another time ſo ready to ſatisfie the reſentments of men void of reaſon. What could I do leſs, replied *Alcidor*, than uſe my ſword againſt a man who forced me ſo to defend me honor and my life. I am cer-

certainely no quarreller, much leſs am I of a humor to fall foul upon thoſe whom I do not beleeve to have a deſign of offending me, but that it ſhould be ſaid that out of cowardiſe I diſengaged myſelf from a provocation, or that any body ſhould ſet upon me without my giving them to ſee, as far as I am able, that I am not inſenſible, I can by no meanes bring myſelf to endure. You gave ſufficient demonſtration of this to *Liſimax*, ſaid *Dorame* to him, and thereby acquired a far more triumphing reputation than that any body ſhould be eaſily diſpoſed to paſs ſentence upon you as puſillanimous. I ſee you know, Madam, returned *Alcidor* to her, what in reſpect of its inconſiderableneſs I had reaſon to think lay private from you; but that is too ſmall a thing to procure me credit with any body, much leſs can it bring me into eſteem with you to whom thoſe things are common which to others are rare. Not to diſſemble what we have done, Sir, ſaid *Rolimon* to him, *Vindorix* and I to divert my neice have imparted to her the knowledge which we have of your life, which reaches, you know, to the time that you was taken priſoner, excepting what became of *Floriſa* and what intercourſe you maintained with her, after her

Uncle removed her from *Paquin*. I am sorry, replied *Alcidor*, that she hath had no better a diversion, the occurrences of War usually making horror rather than harmony to those of her sexe and temper. Notwithstanding my weaker sexe, reparted *Darame*, I am not of so weake a temper, as to be frighted with the bruite of things; on the contrary they have been very melodious aires to me, both those of your martiall deeds and those of your amorous intelligences whith the princess *Floriſa*. In the remainder of which latter I beseech you to instruct me, after you have recounted to us, that which I also begge of you, how things went between you and *Almidon*. But yet before you doe this I will shew you what *Cartagenes* wrot to me dying. With those words she took out of her pocket and presented to him the letter of that defunct, which he having read. How few such men, said he, are there to be found in the world, and how much regret have I that such a man should fall by my sword, though withall by his own fault. But let us leave him in peace Madam, continued he, and suffer me to tell you that you use me with too much ceremony to intreat of me what it is your part to command. Had you as much fa-

vor for me as I have honor and obedience for you, you would only say, *Alcidor*, it is my will you should do thus and thus; this freeness would make me do what you desire with greater cheerfullness. But you beleive you should render me too happy should you treat me so. You have no reason surely to complain, answered she to him, if I pay you the respect which I know to be due to you: loose no more time therefore in producing to us these punctilio's of your spirit, we being better assured of its excellency than to need such testimonies of it, but relate to us the adventure, which you have had with *Almidon*. Not to tell you again what you have been told allready, Madam, said *Alcidor* to her, be pleased to take this breviate of the rest.

After I was informed by *Cartagenes* and *Limonides*, how *Almidon* had calumniated me to the former, and by so doing been the author of his misfortune (over which I could not choose but weep) I had no longer any thing besides my love of your self so busy in my minde as revenge; but I was a while unresolved of what means I should serve myself in prosecution of it; sometimes I thought of acting one way, sometimes another: I was indeed most inclined

to go find him myſelf in his houſe, and draw him into the feild, there to demand an account of him for what he had done; but I was withall miſerably agitated with fears of incurring your diſpleaſure by ſo doing, and of acquiring the tittle of a gladiator more than of your ſervant. I had agreed thoſe upon whoſe occaſion I went hence with the ſucceſs that I deſired, and there was nothing but my love that ſtood in the way of my anger. But when I conſidered that you was of a more generous humor than to take it ill that I ſhould ſeek ſatisfaction for the wrong that was done to me and for the miſcheife that was done to *Cartagenes*, I wavered no longer but leaving that dying man in the armes and to the care of *Limonides*, I betook myſelf to the houſe of *Meonimus* from which that of *Almidon* was not far diſtant. Where having ſtaid ſome hours to repoſe my ſelfe and write that letter to you which you was pleaſed moſt obligingly to anſwer, I got again on horſebacke, and leaving behinde me my freind's houſe was quickly at that of my enemie. I found him at home, was receaved by him better than I deſired, and ſoon underſtood from him that he knew nothing of the death of *Cartagenes* (for I reckoned him

him to be by that time no more among the living) and that he beleived I knew nothing of the reports which he had made to him concerning me. Hiding therefore my resentments from him, after I had staid with him neer an houre, and refused the invitations of eating which he very civilly prest me with, I acted so that I engaged him to ride out with me. When we were come far enough from his house, in the midst of a wood, whither I served myself of the occasion of a great roade to bring us, taking him by the hand and obliging him to make a halt as I did, *Almidon*, said I to him, I know not where to find a place more proper to require an account of the injury that you have done me than this. Amaz'd at which words without giving me leasure to proceed, what is it, *Alcidor*, said he, which moves you thus to surprize me? I never had a minde said I to him again, to surprize any man unhandsomely; but knowing that you have not freeness enough to satisfie willingly those whom you have wronged, I have chose to draw you clancularly hither that so you might not be able to find any way of escaping or giving yourself a dispensation from fighting. But tell me then, returned he to me, what the injury is which

you accuſe me of having done you, and for which you thus ſet upon me. Do you not remember, replied I to him, or can you deny that you not long ſince ſpoke of me to *Cartagenes* otherwiſe than was true and honeſt? who, anſwered he, hath told you that I did? *Cartagenes* himſelf, reparted I. He hath indeed allwayes told me, returned he, that he would ingage me in a quarrell with ſomebody, and I have now too much experience of it to queſtion that he was in earnest. But I will maintain to him that he lyes and that I never ſpoke of you but as I ought. At thoſe words provokt with his baſeneſs in denying what I was ſure he was guilty of, and laying the blame upon one of whoſe innocence I had ſufficient proofe, I took my ſword in my hand againſt him; but he made no offer of putting himſelf in a poſture of defence. Seeing which, are you ſo great a coward, cried I to him, as not only to unſay what you have broached, but alſo to refuſe fighting with one who defies you to it and will kill you if you do not reſiſt him? But theſe reproaches ſtirred him not and I was unwilling to ſtrike a man who would not defend himſelf. To try therefore if I could beget a courage in him, and withall the better to convict him, I repeated to him

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the words which he had ſaid to *Cartagenes*. Struck with which and his owne conſcience together he ſat on his horſe like a ſtatue as if he had had nothing of ſenſe or motion left him. At length recovering ſpirit, *Cartagenes*, ſaid he, hath been moſt diſingenuouſly unjuſt to fixe upon me what I never thought of, and I ſhall act powerfully enough againſt him to let you quickly ſee his artifice and baſeneſs, and that I am no ſuch baſe or cowardly perſon as you accuſe me to bee. *Cartagenes* no longer lives, cried I to him, this ſword which I hold in my hand to puniſh you hath forced him to make a voyage into another world for having too lightly given credit to your diſcourſes. That unhappy Cavaleir was as valiant to attacque me as you are heartleſs to defend yourſelf; but the equity of my cauſe ſurmounted the injuſtice of his, and you, Impoſtor ſhall, if I can make you, run the ſame adventure, expiating your crime with your blood. Take your ſword therefore in your hand or I will run you through. But theſe words warned him no more than the former, and could he have fled I dare confidently ſay he would not have ſtaied long in the place. In fine, when after I had with a great deal of patience waited upon him he ſaw I would wait

no longer but was resolved to use him enough to his ignominy unless he would stand upon his guard, he told me that his sword was not equall to mine, as indeed it was not, being as bad a one as I have commonly seen, and that if I would stay till the next morning he would render himself where I should appoint to give me the satisfaction that I desired. As commonly they who have an ill paymaster their debtor are content to be paid with such money as they can receive, I consented to his procrastination and we concluded upon a place and hour where and when to meet the following day. Which being come, about halfe an houre before *Limonides* came to me, I saw enter the house of *Meonmus* one whom though disguised I knew to be *Almidons* lacquey. The fashion in which I saw him, and the manner in which he inquired for *Meonimus*, whom I had sent from home in the morning upon other business, that so I might have leasure to perform that which I had in hand with *Almidon*, made me suspect that his Master was brewing something of treachery. To ascertain myself of the truth of it, and know what this disguise meant, I took the lacquey by the collar, and shewing my self most violently angry threatned him to make him

hang

hang if he would not quickly tell me why he was metamorphoſt, and for what reaſon he came into the houſe covertly and like a theife. Preſently the poor boy who had his ſenſes frozen with feare confeſt to me that his Maſter had given him a ſumme of money to adverriſe *Meonimus* ſecretly of the Duel which he was to perform with me, and to feigne that it was his owne proper motion to give him the advertiſement. Inquiring then of the lacquey where his Maſter was, and hearing that he was gone to the place aſſigned for our meeting I thought of nothing any more but to make haſte to him. But *Limonides* arrived at the inſtant with your moſt wellcome letter, and I ſtaid to read it twice over and to ſpeak a few words to him that brought it. Which done to come upon *Almidon* unawares, I galloped to him by a private way. Perceiving him wholly aſtoniſht to ſee me inſtead of *Meonimus* whom he expected, I gave him leaſure to recollect himſelf, and then I with much difficulty made him draw his ſword; But he uſed it ſo ill that I with little difficulty gave him a wound which let out the beſt part of his blood upon the place. The reſt *Limonides* I ſuppoſe hath acquainted you with, I ſhall therefore only add that I have not with-

without a very great displeasure to me been compelled in this fashion to make good my honor against a gallant man and a cowardly. He having said so, the action of the former of them, said *Dorame*, does indeed afford a subject of praise, that of the latter carries infamy in its remembrance. Nothing is more certain, adjoined *Vindorix*, than that a mans good or bad reputation depends for the most part upon his actions. Some more words they had upon this occasion and *Alcidor* fell into particularities with *Dorame*; in which the other company being about to leave them, the table presently shewed it self coverd and called them all to take their seates.

As soon as they had dined *Dorame* carrying them into a private room requested *Alcidor* to make the recitall that he had promised of the remainder of his loves, and he obeyed her in a discourse to this effect.

Vindorix knows the trouble which the absence of *Florisa* gave me, to which was added that which I had to see him fall sick and constrained to leave me. The imprisonment also of *Placidas*, which I knew he sufferd for favouring of me, I had such a sense of that had I known where *Lucimon* had shut him up I should either have drawn him thence

thence or loſt myſelf in undertaking it. I had I am ſure too much cauſe to complain of that prince to ſerve him in his army. I therefore put my ſelf in that of *Liſander*, and there I paſt ſome time without learning any news of the princeſs though I had continually ſpies about *Lucimon* to diſcover in what place of the earth he kept her. By this my cares of Love appearing without hopes of proſperity, and the War every moment furniſhing me with new means of laying both them and the melancholy which they cauſed to me aſleep, I began after ſome months to think no otherwiſe of the Princeſs than as of one who was wholly loſt to me. Among theſe thoughts an expedition carrying us towards the province of *Sancy*, the ſecond day after our arrivall in thoſe quarters I ſaw come into my chamber one, whom though diſguiſed; I preſently knew to be *Alexis* page to *Floriſa*, and who gave me a letter the contents whereof I ſtill remember were theſe.

Floriſa to Alcidor.

AT laſt in deſpight of Lucimon and his tyranny I have the means to informe you of the torments that I undergo. I am more reſtrained than ſlaves and more rigorouſly uſ d than cri-

Criminalls. Excepting this Page *and* Leonora *I have no body about me whose fidelity is not corrupted. Judge then if I am not to complain and if my afflictions ought not to touch you. But I shall be in a great measure happy amidst my unhappinesses if I can but be assured that you still love me. I no sooner knew of the approach of* Lisantus *towards this Towne of* Sanchio *but I imagined that you was with him and have therefore sent* Alexis *to you to let you know that my greatest fear is that of not seeing you. Send me word how you do and whither the courage of* Alcidor *can suffer that* Florisa *should live allways miserable.*

Seriously affected with these lines when I considerd that a page had had the faithfullness, wit and courage to deceive the Princess's guards, I could not but reckon myself obliged to practise all possible means of seeing her. Sending therefore *Alexis* before to advertise her that I would be suddenly at her feet, but that she and *Leonora* must dissemble their knowledge of me, with a select Troop whom I durst trust and whom, in that confidence which I had in them, I instructed to call me by another name, I took the way withall the speed that I could after him. Coming to the place about twilight I askt to

speak

ſpeak with *Doliban* the Captaine that guarded the princeſs; who preſently appearing I told him that *Liſantus* having received adviſe of a deſign that was on foot of taking away the Princeſs, had ſent me to impede the execution of it. Taking what I told him for certain, he received me with a great deal of freeneſs, ſhewed me what ſouldiers he had and what order he obſerved for preſerving his fair charge and deſired me to do what I judged in the preſent occaſion fitting. Accordingly to confirm him in his beleife of what I had affirmed, I appointed ſentinells to be ſet at all the avenues of the place, and concerned my ſelf to ſee that and ſeverall other things done with as much zeal as if I had really been affraid of the rape that I pretended, and with as much diligence as if I expected it would have been preſently attempted. All this while I diſcoverd nothing to him of the deſire that I had to ſee the Princeſs, but as ſoon as we had ſettled things for her ſafety, he of his own accord offerd me to conduct me to her, I took the offer and went along with him like one ſufficiently diſintereſted, and ſhe received me as coldly. When *Doliban* indeed with longer eulogies of me than either ſhe or I at that time cared for, told her what rank I held

held with *Liſander* and upon what errand I was come from him, ſhe payd me thoſe reſpects which in common manners were due, but yet ſhe in every thing acted her part ſo ſagely that one would have firmely beleived ſhe had not had the leaſt acquaintance with me. *Leonora* alſo gave authority to the diſſimulation by the curioſity which ſhe ſhewed in inquiring after my name and ſeverall other things about me. But *Doliban* being after a while called away, we quickly changed the faſhion of your converſe. We recounted, ſhe to me the ſeverities which her Uncle *Lucimon* had exerciſed upon her ſince he had removed her from *Paquin*, I to her the pains that I had taken to learn her abode, both I to her and ſhe to me how bitter our forcible ſeparation had been to us, and how ſweet our preſent ſtoln interview was; we deliberated of the means of keeping *Doliban* blind and of ſeeing one another for the future; we diſcourſt of all that we could think of paſt, preſent and to come that concerned either our good or our ill, we determined that for prevention of diſcovery and to keep of ſuſpicion it was neceſſary that as I had come after the ſun was gone down ſo I ſhould be gone before it was gotten up: In breife the moſt of the lea-

leasure that we had we spent in reciprocating testimonies of affection to one another the most emphaticall that her vertue and my respectfullness could allow us. But this kept us not from being so wary that when *Doliban* returned to me, he found me examining whither all things were in good order at the inlets. In which work he bearing me company, I took occasion to remonstrate to him that it was necessary the plot should be kept secret from every body and particularly from *Lucimon* for fear it should alarum him so as to disturb him in the great affairs which he had upon his hands. It is sufficient, added I, that the enemie's design is known to *Lisantus*, your self and me, our forces and cares being of validity enough to ruine it; only let it be your business to watch solicitously for the security and advantage of your charge, and it shall be mine to give as I am obliged a very fair character of you to him that sent me. To this *Doliban* shaped a reply full of honesty and civility, and carried me backe to the Princess; who signifying some apprehensions of the danger that she was in we assured her that provided they in the Town had, as there was no reason to question but they had, resolution and fidelity answerable to their duty, she was

as

as safe where she was as she could be any where else of the Kingdome. I had by this time not above halfe an houre to stay, and *Doliban* as opportunely as if on purpose receding, we improoved it as we were taught by our Master Love. He reentring when we were drawing to a conclusion my tongue insensibly slided to commend her to his tuition and to take my leave of them both. Returned to the Campe I found that *Lisantus* had sent all about in search of me; presenting my self therefore to him though he with a strict curiosity examined where I had been, I deceived him as well as I had done *Doliban*, disguising things so to him that he had not the least suspicion of the truth.

By such means during a month that we staied in the province of *Sancy* I seaven or eight times stole the sight and company of *Florisa*; after which the motions of the War carrying us else whither we bad one another adieu with tears on her part which she told me sprang from strong apprehensions that she should never see me again, and with protestations on my part that how remote soever the Countrey was whither I went I would not with the blessing of Heaven be long before I visited her. But *Polianis* never suffering us to rest, but continually shew-

ſhewing himſelf either at our heels or *Lucimon's*, ſo that all the diligence that we could uſe was too little to protect ourſelves againſt him, I was much longer than I expected before I could make good my word. He indeed by the victories which he obtained over us weakened us ſo much that I had more reaſon to conſider how to prevent the ruine of myſelf and my party than how to carry on my loves with *Floriſa*. Not to rehearſe any of the traverſes of the War (for with them I ſuppoſe you are allready acquainted) every moment that I would have gone to find the Princeſs, new imployments were laid in my way by *Liſantus* whom I accounted my ſelf bound in honour to obſerve. But I was nothwithſtanding all obſtructions contriving at length how to make an eſcape for a few dayes from the Campe, when *Alexis* preſented himſelf again to me together with this letter.

Floriſa *to* Alcidor.

HOw reſpectfully ſoever Doliban *treates me I am continually rackt with an impatient longing either to ſee you or heare from you. I ſhould indeed be in hazard of dying with malancholy, was it not for* Leonora *who makes*

it her worke to comfort me, and particularly endeavours to perſwade me that the important affaires in which you are ingaged allow you not the time that you deſire to ſatisfie my will. Howſoever it is that you are imploied, for love of me preſerve your life, remembring that you ought to act the Captain and not the common Souldier, and either come to me or write the cauſe which hinders you from coming.

Incited by this language and my own inclinations I was never at reſt till I had procured liberty of *Liſantus* to be a few dayes abſent, nor till I was gotten with *Alexis* to her who had ſent him to me. She declared herſelfe as glad to ſee me as at other times, yet withall a little diſſatisfied with me becauſe I had ſtaid ſo long away from her. But with the remonſtrances which I made to her I ſo perfectly compoſed her ſpirit and ſet all ſo well in tune that our converſe all the while I ſtaid after conſiſted of no other notes but what were purely harmonious, and that when I told her the houres called me away ſhe tooke it not at all ill, but freely diſmiſt me. We thus from time to time ſaw one another by the politickes which we uſed keeping *Doliban* from perceiving and *Lucimon* from learning any thing of our intelligence

gence, and conſequently having the former allwayes diſpoſed to pleaſe us.

But I could not content my ſelf with this, unleſs I ſaw *Placidas* at liberty, whom I ſhould have been very ungratefull ſhould I not have remembred of my ſelf, and whom the Princeſs and *Leonora* putting me alſo in mind of informed me of the place where he was kept priſoner. In recompenſe therefore of the good ſervices which he had done his Princeſs and the good offices which he done me, I procured his priſon to be forced and his impriſonment to be put an end to, an exploit of which I ſhould have been quickly ſuſpected the authour by *Lucimon*, had I not imploied in it ſuch in whom I knew I might truſt, given them order to name themſelves of the roiall party, and managed the whole buſineſs with a ſuitable diſguiſe. The newes of it flying as faſt to *Lucimon* as *Placidas* did to me, he was vext at it to a tempeſtous rage, and conceived ſuch feares of ſeeing as much befall his neice that he immediately removed her from the place where ſhe was. Whither he removed her I was not able by all the means that I could uſe to deſcover; but at length *Alexis* came to me with word from her that ſhe was at *Suchieu* and that *Doliban*

was no more with her but another Captain who allowed her not so much liberty as he had done. Not being allwayes able to find a stratageme favourable to my desire of visiting her, I sent this letter by him to her.

Alcidor *to* Floriſa.

YOur ſufferings have not a ſharper influence upon yourſelf than upon me. But a great and incomparable Princeſs as you are knowes how to overcome her afflictions with her conſtancy. Nor may you beleive that Alcidor *will be deprived of the glory of ſeeing you any longer than is neceſſary for procuring an expedient of effecting it; and my love is more powerfull than not ere long to procure one in deſpight of the new tyrant that watchs you.*

Two dayes after I had ſent away *Alexis*, *Liſantus* having advertiſement that the inhabitants of *Suchieu* were fallen into mutinies, to remedy the diſorder thought fit that I ſhould make a voiage thither. Having by which means in a ſhort time obtained an opportunity which I might have a long time been ſeeking by art, I was quickly on horſebacke, and quickly at my journie's end. All tu-

tumults ceasing at my arrivall. After I had reſettled things in their former conſtitutions, I enquired of the officers of the Town what condition the Princeſs was in and what order was obſerved in guarding her, and they not only informed me in what I askt, but they alſo conducted me to her and left me with her; that which *Anaximenes* the Captain that had the Cuſtody of her, though it was wholly againſt the command which *Lucimon* had given him, was ſo far from oppoſing, that buſying himſelf about ſomething of his charge which required his preſent care, he gave us ſufficient leaſure of entertaining one another. We had indeed not only that firſt day, but alſo during foure dayes that I ſtaid at *Suchieu* as much liberty with one another as before that *Lucimon* was jealous of it, and I made as frequent and as free viſits to her as I deſired, *Anaximenes* being very happily to our advantage ſo paſſionate of *Leonora* that ſhe made him act what part ſhe would.

After this rate of correſpondencies perſiſted we to live till *Dorilas*, eſcaping out of priſon into his Uncle *Lucimon*'s army and there hearing from that grand enemy of our loves all that he knew of them, came himſelf to *Suchieu* and there charged it upon his

Sister with very sharpe reproaches. Advertisement hereof she sent me by *Alexis*; whereupon, though she assured me withall that not brother, not Uncle, not all whosoever should either by fair or foul means be ever able to divorce her heart from me, I nevertheless with close and serious thoughts represented to my self that her quality, beauty, wisedom, vertue rendring her an equall match to the possessor of a throne, for me to aspire to the possession of her was to go about to debase her from her just height, to be guilty of an arrogance of which the fruite would be common envy if it succeeded, if it succeded not publique derision; and to pull upon me from her relations a loade of malice under which I must necessarily fall. From these and such like premises I drew a conclusion to beware for the future how I nourisht an affection of which nothing could in all likelihood come but unhappiness. But write this conclusion to her in relation to whom I made it I durst not; I only sent her word by *Alexis* that since her brother disliked that pious fire with which I offered my heart in sacrifice to her, I would for some time hide it under the ashes that so I might not kindle in him a design of destroying me, but yet, during that re-

reſerve, would not fail of ſeeing her if it was poſſible, or at leaſt of writing to her. Which meſſage in what ſenſe ſhe conſtrued, I know not, but this I know that from that time I nor ſaw her nor heard from her till after I was taken priſoner.

This turne of my fortune, having if I may ſpeak it without vanity by an uninterrupted proſperity of my armes climbed to a ſufficient eminency of reputation, I had at firſt no other ſenſe of, than as of a fall, the diſgrace and dammage of which was very hardly if at all to be repaired; but it afterwards proved of very profitable conſequence to me. *Polianis* tooke notice and care of me as of ſome body conſiderable, he appointed me no other jayle but his court, no other jaylor but my parole, he gave me a thouſand rich experiences of his goodneſs, he earneſtly preſt me to ingage in his ſervice, and I ſhould without doubt have done myſelf the good office of ſatisfying him, had he been of the ſame religion with me. That he was not was the argument that I uſed to him for my diſpenſation, and he took it not ill; only when by far better fortune than merit I was demanded to be releaſed in exchange for three, the meaneſt of whom was of much more value than *Alcidor*, he obliged me to

promiſe him that I would change my ſide when he changed his faith.

While I lay priſoner at the Court I was told by ſeverall of credit that *Floriſa* was erelong to be married to *Eridan*, prince of the royall Blood. Whereupon, what I had before carried by rote, I confirmed by decree that I would conſider her no more as my moſt adorable miſtreſs but only as my illuſtrious freind. But though I was fully bent to retire from her bonds, I notwithſtanding went to waite upon her as ſoon as I was at liberty, and in our converſe I uſed all the skill that I was Maſter of to veile my intentions from her. But we had not been long together before ſhe told me that ſhe after my long abſence obſerved a conſtraint and alteration in me which was very ſtrange to her. I endeavouring to make her looſe that opinion, and particularly excuſing my abſence by my impriſonment and upon that occaſion ſpeaking honourably, and as I was in gratitude bound, of *Polianis*, ſhe rejoined that ſhe was affraid the favours and vertues of that victorious prince had overcome me ſo as to make me at once abandon the intereſts of her family and grow cold in the affection which I had vowed to her. To this I was ſhaping an anſwer with which I hoped

to

so satisfie her, but was prevented by the coming of *Dorilas*, which gave me no more leasure than to slip away without so much as bidding her Adieu, and I had no more opportunity of seeing her before that her suspitious brother carried her away to a place where she was more straightly guarded than ever.

At length the King after he had seriously deliberated of the concernements of religion making a turne which pleased some, displeased others, brought over to him the most remarkeable Lords of the Union, and rended *Lucimon* allmost desperate, with a most propitious condescension challanged me of the promise which I made him when I left his prison, and I readyly followed whither the loadstone of his authority and goodness drew me, not without the honour of having the incomparable *Lisantus* to beare me company. Him he presently made vice Roy of a province of *China*, to me he gave twenty thousand Takes in present to repair the expences that I had been at in maintaining the War against him, and foure thousand Takes in pension, causing me withall to be saluted by *Feonice* the ruling object of his affections and by her Sister *Astasia* a principall beauty of his court.

These

Theſe things were not done with ſo little noiſe but that they reached the eares of *Floriſa*, and as *Alexis* brought me word ſhe fell ſicke with the hot alarum which ſhe took at them. By him therefore I wrot back to her that ſhe ought not to take it ill that I had quitted a party whom I at length had found to be moſt unjuſtly and diſloyally armed againſt their Soveraigne, or that the danger which I ſaw and ſhe knew I was every moment in by the ill will of her relations had made me think a little of acting as my preſervation demanded of me, and that as long as I lived ſhe ſhould have cauſe to beleeve that I had for her a juſt veneration, a thankfull memory, and a faithfull ſervice.

It followed by ſome intervalls, and I have done when I have told you it, that *Liſantus* and I were ſet on work by the King to help to deſtroy that monſter (for ſo we now reckoned the Union) which we had ſo long aſſiſted, and that we very proſperouſly atcheived our task, that *Dorilas* ſeeing no body obſtinate for the league but his Uncle *Lucimon*, and having no mind to ruine himſelf with him askt the King's pardon and received it, that *Polianis* juſtly incenſt againſt *Atalantus* for having incited and maintained his ſubjects againſt him with deſigne of ſeizing

zing the monarchy of *China* declared War againſt him and obtained againſt him three ſignal victories, that the enemies forces being vanquiſht by *Adraſtus* in the province of *Peuquiam*, others of the ſame party entered into that of *Xiancy* and took *Thianchieu* killing the illuſtrious *Liſantus* that defended it, that the famous *Aſtragant* yeelded himſelf together with ſeverall Townes to his Majeſty, that *Lucimon* ſeeing all his retreates loſt, all his hopes blaſted, and *Polianis* crowned King, with a penitent humility ſaught his grace and ſubmitted to his Scepter, that by this meanes a generall peace was reſtored to *China*, and in fine that the amorous intercourſe between me and *Floriſa*, which had been all this while dying but had made ſeverall efforts to recover it ſelf, they proving no more than blazes before the going out of the Candle, was by the end of the War wholly extinct.

Alcidor having brought his narration to a period, and the Company having paid him their thanks, I have been informed, ſaid *Dorame* to him, that your love did not die when it left *Floriſa*, but only like a Pythagorick ſoul paſt from one to another, from *Floriſa* to *Aſtaſia*, I ſhall therefore account myſelf very much in your debt if you will relate to us what were the tranſactions of it with that beauty

beautifull wife of *Certasilan*. There are many reasons, Madam, returned *Alcidor*, which forbid me doing what you desire. But the most remarkable of the truths which you would know, one of my freinds, designing so to oblige me, hath faithfully enough penned down. This manuscript if you think it worth your time to examine, I shall willingly put into your hands. Therewith he pulled out of his pocket and presented to her a little book of which the cover was *Crimson* velvet embroidered with Gold and adorned with Pearls and Cyphers. Having took it, vewed its outside, opened it, found the pourtraitures of *Alcidor* and *Astasia* on the first and second pages, and lookt awhile upon them, she gave it to *Melian* intreating him to read it to them, and he read it in these words.

The History of the Loves of Alcidor *and* Astasia.

ALcidor being returned to *Paquin* from *Canton* where he had subdued the remaines of the confederacy, now that the fires of the civill War were wellnigh all quenched, had a fire kindled in his breast

by

by the beauties of *Aſtaſia* which was of too much force eaſily to be put out: And yet he had at firſt conſidering her known integrity to her husband no in couragement to hope that it would ſucceed to his ſatisfaction. But on a ſudden as if ſome fatality had laboured to cleere his way, *Certaſilan* with his nice and diſtemperd palate began to diſtaſt the viſits which the more gallant Courtiers made to his Lady. This folly prevailing with more and more unrulineſs in his ſpirit he at length never ſaw any body near her but he beleeved it was to corrupt her caſtity; Nor though to obey and pleaſe him (ſeeing what diſeaſe he laboured under) ſhe ſhunned all the Company which ſhe thought he might ſuſpect, grew he ever the more ſober, but ſo interpreted all her actions to his fanſie that there was not the leaſt and moſt ſpotleſs of them with which he found not fault. Wholly governed with which frenzy he retrenched the uſage of thoſe reſpects which he had been wont to pay her and moſt unworthily loaded her with abuſes which it was impoſſible for her long to bear. She notwithſtanding practiſed all the ſweet meanes that her diſcretion was able to ſuggeſt to her to put him in a better mind; but inſtead of being thereby brought back to

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reaſon he was exaſperated higher and grew more and more inſupportable. Her teares which one would have thought able to melt cruelty it ſelf rather increaſt than allaied his rage and her juſt complaints ſerved to no better effect than to make him vomit a thouſand contumelies againſt her honor. Nor were her own indeavors to appeaſe him fruitleſs only but the Kings alſo, who having knowledge of his madneſs uſed what remedies he judged requiſite for his cure, but without effecting it. During this ferall perſecution of *Aſtaſia*, *Alcidor* went every day to ſee her without her perſecutor being able to hinder it, it being in the lodgings of *Feonice* and in the preſence of *Polianus* that he viſited her; and as often as he ſaw her he made her ſee that he was as deeply concerned in her ſufferings as ſhe was herſelf. She again every day drunke in ſuch a ſenſe both of his ſympathy and accompliſhments as with the aſſiſtance of *Certaſilan*'s outrages rendred this latter leſs and leſs and that former more and more agreeable to her. He proceded to manage time and his actions ſo advantageouſly to his purpoſe that ſhe no longer regarded him but as one regards thoſe whom one ſincerely likes. She was not contented but when he was with her, nor diſ-

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contented but when he was from her. She felt emotions and attempts which she had never felt before; by which discerning that Love was surprizing her heart she imploied all her strength to defend it, but he notwithstanding all made himself Master of it. Perceiving herself conquered, since thou findest it in vaine, said she to her selfe, to oppose the will of Love, of whom all the world holds in fee, rebell no more *Astasia*. Who can with common charity blame thee, because thou submittest to a puissance which disposes of all as it lists, and because thy affections lacquey no longer after a Master who hath most barbarously handled them, but run to one whose qualities are all irresistably magneticke, and who, if any body, is most likely to protect and releeve thee? who indeed if not *Alcidor* is able to bring *Certasilan* into order. But, alas, by what meanes should he do it? for him to speak to him in my defence what is it but to augment his jealousy? And though it may be he dares not assault him, may he not still revenge himself upon me, a woman who have nothing but sighs and teares for my armes against him? But imagine, *Astasia*, that *Alcidor* is able to supercede his oppression of me, who hath told thee that he will be at

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the paines to go about it? The reſpects indeed which he renders thee ſeem to be ſuch as would aſſure thee of it, but conſider he renders the like to all Ladies, and had he a particular kindneſs for thee he would not ſurely have been untill this houre to let thee know it, every thing having favoured ſuch a deſign. No, no it is impoſſible that a great fire ſhould lye ſo long under its cinders without appearing more or leſs; It would therefore be a great vanity in thee to perſwade thyſelf there is any ſuch in his breaſt for the. The Princeſs *Floriſa* indeed hath too much empire in her attractions to ſuffer him to ſubject himſelf to any other.

While *Aſtaſia* was diſcourſing thus with herſelfe about *Alcidor*, he was at the ſame time reſolving with himſelfe to declare to her his paſſion, and conſidering that he had not liberty to do it by word of mouth by reaſon that *Certaſilan* had eyes and eares every where to watch her, he concluded to make a letter his proxie. Accordingly he without any farther demurre drew his thoughts on paper, ſealed it up and made himſelf his meſſenger to carry it to her. He found her in her Siſter *Feonice's* Chamber, ſhe being newly come in to it, out of her cloſet where ſhe had been ſome while ſhut

up

up bemoaning her ſelf, but *Certaſilan* follo-wed him in at the heels, and when they could have wiſht him in the remoteſt part of the world debarred them by his Company from having any particular ſociety. He kept his eyes ſuch ſtrict ſentinells upon them both that they could hardly ſteal a few glances one of another, much leſs could they entertain one another as they deſired. But after a while as if on purpoſe to dreſs a party againſt him, *Feonice* ſet upon him with ſo hot a charge for his untowardneſs to her Siſter, that he could intend nothing but how to defend himſelf againſt her. Obſerving which opportunity *Alcidor* offerd his letter to the hand of *Aſtaſia*, and ſhe civilly receiving it ſlipt it into her pocket. *Feonice* ſtill held *Certaſilan* to task with her remonſtrances of his fault, and ſhe was ſo earneſt in them and thought them ſo equitable that, though *Aſtaſia* made frequent ſignes to her to deſiſt, ſhe would not be taken off till the Criminall having ſpent all the weak excuſes which he could forge, ſaid nothing more but what made her hope he intended to be better for the future, though as it afterwards appeared he at the ſame time reſolved to be worſe, with a very ſkillfull diſſimulation laying a conſtraint upon his humor to hide

his deſign. Hardly had *Feonice* ſat down from her action but *Polianis* came into the Chamber; whereupon *Certaſilan* fearing a ſevere reprehenſion from him alſo made haſt away, nor was he ſtopt by the King who had at that time other thoughts in his mind. *Certaſilan* gone, his Lady pretending herſelf not well withdrew into her Chamber; *Alcidor* offerd to lead her, but ſhe civilly refuſed it, and he preſt it not gueſſing ſhe went to read what he had given her. And he gueſt right; for having walkt three or four turnes in her Chamber among her women ſhe went into her Cloſet, and having ſhut herſelf in opened the letter and read in it theſe contents.

Alcidor *to* Aſtaſia.

I Have ſighed ſo long for what you ſuffer and with what I ſuffer my ſelf that I can no longer conceale it from you. I have had a far deeper ſenſe of your troubles than if I had endured them myſelf. And it is not meerly a compaſſionate temper that hath bred this ſenſe in me but a paſſionate Love. I contracted this Love at the firſt ſight of you, it hath ever ſince increaſt by degrees, and it is now grown of too large a dimenſion and violence to bee kept hid.

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Puniſh not my temerity ſince your own beauty is the parent of it, but have ſome pitty for me, who have ſo much for you that I ſhall with triumph ſacrifice my life to draw you from the tyranny under which you groan.

Having read this letter many times over and every time with more ſatisfaction than other, her husbands humor began to be altogether indifferent to her, and for *Alcidor* ſhe reckoned ſhe could do no leſs than draw a kinde anſwer to him and ſhe drew this.

Aſtaſia *to* Alcidor.

MY condition is ſuch as permitts me not to ſlight either the ſympathy that you pretend with me, or the ſuccour that you offer me; the one may blunt the edge of my preſſures, the other may put an end to them; I therefore with thankes accept of both. But I do not withall deſire that you ſhould hazard your life in releeving me: preſerve it rather as carefully as you can, that ſo I may reap that benefit by it that I ſtand in need of, and beleive, that reckoning myſelf in a good part happy by the freindſhip that you aſſure me of, I ſhall eſteem myſelf perfectly ſo when I ſhall have it in my power to evi-

dence to you that I am from my heart your ſervant.

Having wrapt up theſe lines, notwithſtanding thoſe that watch't her actions ſhe ran with them to her Siſters Chamber, where ſhe knew the King and *Alcidor* ſtill were: The King when ſhe reentred was in a particular converſation with that abſolute Miſtreſs of his heart, and he went on in it. *Alcidor* was at ſome diſtance veiwing pictures in which art had ſo dextrouſly imitated nature that things dead ſeemed alive and ſenſible: but he quickly left them when he ſaw her appear who had reall life and ſenſe accompliſht above the imitation of art, with wit, beauty and goodneſs, and taking the opportunity went and confirmed to her by words of his Letter. She gave him for anſwer what ſhe had written, which having read in a corner where the King and *Feonice* could not ſee him he with a thred of gratefull, reſpectfull and affectionate language tied her heart to him in a moſt faſt knot. She owning as much to him, they proceeded to contract their affections one to the other with moſt ſolemne vowes of reality and conſtancy; and in this ſtrain they were when the King called *Aſtaſia* to him and askt her

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if ſhe would go along with *Feonice* to the waters. To this your Majeſtyes deſires, returned ſhe, and my Siſters Company are of much more value to me than that I ſhould be backward either to obey the one or follow the other, provided that he to whoſe humor I am ſubject will grant me a licence. Believe me, *Aſtaſia*, replied the King, if that untoward man ſhall hereafter go about any thing againſt my will I ſhall limit him ſo that he ſhall not be able to act but by the rule of my pleaſure. There cannot indeed be found Sir, ſaid ſhe againe to him, an expedient more proper to ſtill his tyranny than to oppoſe to it an auguſt power as is that of your Majeſty. *Certaſilan* ſurely, inſerted *Alcidor*, will not be ſo raſh as to reſiſt his Prince, who he knows reigns by juſtice and clemency together, and when he ſhall find that injuring his Ladies vertue he enterprizes upon his ſoveraigne's authority that undertakes her protection I do not doubt but he will out of a ſenſe of his equity and for fear of his anger make his ſuſpicions die. We will wait to ſee what he will do now, ſaid *Polianis*, and if he does well, I ſhall as he deſerves cheriſh him, if ill, puniſh him. In the mean while, *Aſtaſia*, prepare for the journey with your Siſter, I ſhall be very

much pleaſed that you accompany her, and I cannot beleive that your husband can be troubled at it, when he ſhall know that I am ſo pleaſed. Thoſe that are ill temperd as he, Sir, ſaid *Feonice*, take occaſion as well to ſpeak againſt the wills of Kings, which are regulated by ſober and diſcerning reaſon, as of common people who act not but according to the dictates of brutiſh appetite, without being able to diſtinguiſh what is good from what is bad. But I perſwade myſelf, ſaid *Alcidor*, that *Certaſilan* will hereafter governe his motions with ſo much prudence that his Majeſty will not be put to any trouble to reforme them.

They thus diſcourſing for a while together, then the King reſuming a particular conference with *Feonice*, and by favour of that occaſion *Alcidor* doing the like with her Siſter, *Certaſilan* in the mean time, miſerably rackt himſelf, feares that the Letter was reſolving his wife to practiſes againſt him, and to augment his inquietudes he apprehended that if he went preſently to interrupt them the King would (not without being offended) diſcover the diſeaſe with which his ſpirit laboured, if he waited till the King was gone that *Alcidor* would in the intervall bring his wife to his will. Wandring

dring about in this perplexity he met two Magiſtrates, freinds of his, who according to the order that they had received were going to wait upon the King at *Feonice*'s Lodgings: Them he went a long with thither, without ſhewing any thing of his trouble, and before the King and his Company appeared, in a gaineſs of temper which gave them thoughts of him very different from what they had lately had; *Polianis* deſiring of him that his wife might the day following beare her Siſter Company to the Waters he expreſt a free and cheerefull conſent; he diſcourſt with *Altidor* as if he had had no other fanſy of him but as of his deareſt freind; he ſhewed to *Aſtaſia* as kind regards as when they were firſt married. And theſe he continued to her not only while the King was preſent (who after he had beene a little in private with *Feonice* bad her and her Siſter fare well. *Altidor* doing the like and attending upon him) but alſo till ſhe went away, which ſhe did the next morning, having a ſplendid equipage provided by him for her journey.

About ſixe dayes after the two Siſters were come to the Waters, *Aſtaſia* fell ſtrangely ſad without being able to give any reaſon why ſhe was ſo. While ſhe was dominee-

red by which humor, and *Feonice* was endeavouring to asswage it, word was brought her that a lacquey desired to speak with her. She commanding him to be brought to her with hopes to find him *Alcidor*'s, he appeared in a livery which told her to her greife he was not, and presented a Letter to her, with which, when she had opend it she was thus accosted.

Floras *to* Astasia.

CErtasilan takes me for one of the most wicked men in the world, but I shall let you see that his wickednes is far greater than mine. I have received instructions from him eight dayes hence to carry you secretly to one of his houses, where he resolves to keep you prisoner all your life. I give you notice of it to the end that you may prevent it, and I withall intreate you to keep it secret. It is a glory to shun the precipice into which an enemy would make one fall: think therefore at present both of comforting and of delivering yourself and hereafter when you shall command me I shall entertaine you more at large with the story.

As *Astasia* read these lines she often turned pale and red by sudden vicissitudes. Seeing

ing which without doubt, my Sister, said *Feonice* to her, you have a subject of affliction in what you read. The newes (alas!) which I have sent me, replied *Astasia*, are sufficient to alarum and distract a spirit much more fortified than mine; read them, my deare Sister, and see if it is without cause that I am troubled. *Feonice* having read what she shewed her, *Treacherous* and *Salvage* man together, cried she, can heaven know thy pernicious baseness and not abiss thee? What hath *Astasia* done to thee that thou shouldst thus unworthily treat her? It is necessary, my Sister, adjoined she, not only to beleive *Floras*, but at whatsoever rate to deliver yourself from *Certasilan*. I now see, resumed *Astasia*, that the melancholy with which I have been oppresst, but of which I could not tell you the reason was an augury of the evills which this inhumane brewes against me, and indeed we often have sadnesses, which though we know not the ground nor meaning of, are omens of misfortunes which too nearely (though darkely) hang over our head. But there is a remedy for those that are prepared for you, said *Feonice*; *Floras* hath befreinded you with the meanes of avoiding them; Let us therefore retire into your Closet, there to con-

contrive your ſafety. Entered there *Aſtaſia* fell onweeping as if ſhe had had an intention to drown her life in her Teares: but her Siſter at length prevailing with her to dry her eyes to conſider of what ſhe had to do, I think it requiſite, ſaid ſhe to her, that you ſhould firſt of all make anſwer to *Floras*, and then when we have diſmiſt his man, we will ſend advertiſement to the King of *Certaſilans* purpoſes. You know the compaſſionate nobleneſs of his ſpirit, and what an enemy he is to ſuch as are treacherous. You neede not therefore doubt but he will quickly reſtrain if not puniſh the wickedneſs of that wild beaſt your Husband. I cannot but acknowledge, returned *Aſtaſia* to her, that *Polianis* is the moſt excellent Monarch in the world, and that he intereſts himſelf therefore alſo in the concernements of my fortune becauſe I am your Siſter. But will not this be to be allwayes a priſoner to ſtay with them whom he ſhall appoint to hinder *Certaſilan* from impriſoning me? I have a ſecret which I muſt no longer conceal from you, *Alcidor* loves me, and that (if I do not miſtake by being over-credelous) in ſuch a degree that there is nothing of difficulty which can affright him or will hold him back from ſuccouring me.

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If you are certaine of *Alcidors* affection, replied *Feonice*, you need not be affraid of *Certaſilans* cruelty: but what evidences have you of it and ſince when was it born? ſee the teſtimonies, returned *Aſtaſia*, giving her *Alcidors* Letter, after which I think I cannot lawfully call his love in queſtion: ſee alſo the returne which I have made to it, added ſhe, giving her a copy of her anſwer to him. *Feonice* having perufed them, *Aſtaſia* made a relation to her of what had paſt between them, which done, conſidering all, ſaid *Feonice*, I no longer doubt that *Alcidor* loves you and therefore I no longer apprehend that your condition is deſperate. And as to your love of him a woman barbarouſly handled as you have been by one bound to uſe you with all imaginable ſweeteneſs as is *Certaſilan*, cannot be blamed for ſeeking a refuge againſt that barbariſme. One allwayes lookes with pitty upon thoſe women who do nothing that may ſeem diſhonorable but what abſolute neceſſity conſtraines them to, and though it be a moſt reproacheable buſineſs to deceive a good husband, it is, if an offence, a very pardonable one, to free ones ſelf from the perſecution of a bad one. I reckon indeed, replied *Aſtaſia*, that if in this preſent ſtreight wherein I am againſt my

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will ingaged I take any courſe that ſhall obſcure my vertue and bring it into queſtion, the reall fault will be his who by his intolerable uſage of me forces me to it. With theſe words the Teares coming apace in her eyes *Feonice* to give a ſtop to them put her upon drawing an anſwer to *Floras*, which ſhe did to his effect.

Aſtaſia *to* Floras.

HAd you never given any other proofes of your generoſity than what you have now given me, they are ſufficient to make me eſteem you one of the moſt generous men in the world. He whom Certafilan *hath choſen to execute his cruelty upon me is he who delivers me from it, than which nothing can be more noble, nothing more obliging. Such a ſenſe of it hath my Siſter, and ſhe will let you ſee that ſhe hath: much more have I, and I ſhall allwayes indeavor by my due acknowledgements of your goodneſs to teſtify to you that* Aſtaſia *is though an unfortunate yet not an ingrate.*

Feonice approoving this letter *Aſtaſia* ſealed it and delivered it to the lacquey of *Floras* with a largeſs which abundantly rewarded his paines. The Meſſenger gone, this

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is not all, my Sister, said *Feonice*, now you have the quill in your hand write also to your *Alcidor* and summon him to keep his promise of assisting you; I doubt not but we shall have him here with us soon after he knowes that you have need of him. I shall try, replied *Astasia*, what influence my words can have upon him, and therewith thus set down her mind.

Astasia *to* Alcidor.

I Am upon the point of being undone if you come not quickly to me to oppose your charitable power to the unjust rage of Certasilan. *A few dayes hence he intends to have me conveighed to a perpetuall prison: it is from the person who is to carry me away that I have received the favorable notice of it. Though my merit cannot, yet may my misery at this time induce you to act for my contentment. All is said when* Astasia *conjures you to do it by the affection that you pretend to beare her.*

Astasia putting this letter into her Gentleman's hands, he put it by point of day the next morning into *Alcidors*, and *Alcidor* had no sooner read it, but, I have now, said he to himself, got into my power such an op-

opportunity as I have often wisht for of letting *Astasia* see, that I place my happiness in serving her, that I prize my own life less than her liberty, and that having love for my Commander there is nothing too hard for me (to attempt at least if not) to break through in her Quarrell. Considering therefore, proceeded he, that nothing is more prejudiciall to business of moment than remissenes, and that *Feonice* being of our party will render *Polianis* also of it, let us make haste to her who with so much sweetnes and earnestnes calls us. What he said he made good, mounting presently on horsback with halfe a score men in whom he had confidence, and arriving with the two Sisters just when they were preparing for bed, not without filling them with astonishment at his diligence and contentment at his presence. You are come, Sir, said *Feonice* to him, (while *Astasia* recollected her scattered senses,) to succor my Sister against her Husband who goes about to murder her with affliction; I very much resent my self your debtor for it, and possibly I shall not be so unhappy but I shall have the power one day of giving you proof of my resentment together with her. I have, Madam, replied *Alcidor* to her, nor power, nor courage nor

freinds

freinds nor intereſt which I will not gladly imploy in the ſervice of your Siſter who deſerves no leſs at the hands of all that know her. But the buſineſs being of action bare words are unprofitable as which ought to have effects for their warrant. What therefore is there requiſite to be done, Madam, for this Lady whom I ſee wholly ſeized with the apprehenſion which ſhe hath of falling into the hands of her enemy. It is with the pleaſure which I have with ſeeing you, ſaid ſhe preſently to him, that I am thus extaſied, and by that and by the liberty and confidence with which I have ſummoned you to my aſſiſtance you may eaſyly judge in what eſteem you are with me. If we are by common humanity, Madam, returned *Alcidor* to her, bound to ſuccor thoſe whom we know not, as we without queſtion are, it is a farr greater tye which I have upon me to do all that lies in my power for you who are the ſoul of my ſoul, and if I think not too fondly of myſelf, that zeal which I have for your ſecurity will, when you have told me what you judge fitting to be done for it, impower me to do it ſo happyly that I make no doubt but you ſhall ſoon ſee *Certaſilan*'s purpoſes converted into ſmoke. *Alcidor*, replied *Aſtaſia* to him, who knowes all the

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arts of War, who hath been uſed to break ſquadrons and force Towns, who found out plenty of ſtratagems to ſupport the league, cannot ſurely want an expedient to deliver *Aſtaſia* from *Certaſilan*. I depended upon your contrivance as well as execution. Say therefore what courſe you judge in my condition convenient to beſteered. Only firſt, adjoined ſhe, giving him the letter of *Floras*, reade the information which hath been ſent me of my condition. *Alcidor* having read the letter a conſulation was held, of which the reſult was that *Aſtaſia* ſhould put herſelf in a pages habit that ſo, as *Alcidor* told her, ſhe who was worthy to command the greateſt Kings of the earth might in that garbe of ſervitude avoide the danger of being known, and under that diſguiſe, the covert of the night and *Alcidors* conduct retire to a freinds houſe, there to lye hid till the King having notice of what was intended againſt her ſhould, as they made no queſtion but he would, take order for her ſafety. Accordingly *Alcidor* preſenting to her a page's habit which he had for the purpoſe brought with him, ſhe dreſt herſelf in it, and in this dreſs her beauty was ſo far from loſing any of its power that love who performed the cheif part in this act took advantage by

by it to ſtrike the Cavaleir anew, and he ſtrucke him with ſo much force that he ſtood gazing upon her without being able to ſpeak a word. *Feonice* taking notice of it, if he from whom you are to defend my Siſter meets you, Sir, ſaid ſhe to him, and you turn as voide of ſenſe then as you appear now, I may lay any wager that ſhe is loſt and am ſure to winne. But aſtoniſh your ſelf no farther to ſee her unhappineſs compell her thus to habit her ſelf. If you was capable of remarking, Madam, replied *Alcidor* to her that which Love makes me take notice of in this faire Queene of his Empire you would have your ſpeech and judgment left you as little it may be as I have had. *Certaſilan* himſelf could not with all the hard and feirce thoughts that he hath for her conſider her in this poſture but he would have ſome mild and tender ones mixt with them. This is but to trifle and make ſport with my miſeſery, and we have at preſent ſomething elſe to minde ſaid *Aſtaſia*, and therewith fell on weeping, and *Feonice* together with her. But *Alcidor* to take them of from that ſad exerciſe obliged them to bid one another farewell, led *Aſtaſia* to her horſe, helpt her up and paſt away with her.

The Summer ſeaſon and the light of the

Moon making it pleasant travailing *Alcidor* renderd it more pleasant to *Astasia* by entertaining her with very taking discourses, and to himself by considering her feminine graces in her masculine habit. One thing which they both pleased themselves with was that their journey was known to nobody but those to whom they were willing it should be known, but here in they were deceived.

Certasilan had sent to the Waters to be a spy over his wife's carriage one *Berlin*, and he by counterfeiting the fool, had so easy an access into the Lodgings of *Feonice* and *Astasia* that there was scarce any thing done there which he had not opportunity of being acquainted with. This subtle agent seeing *Alcidor*, arrive and knowing the suspicion which *Certasilan* had of him, with a vigilance which was most artificially dissembled observed all transactions and by that means (the Ladies and *Alcidor* using no caution against him because as they thought him void of apprehension) heard the greatest part of what they said, and particularly what way they would take to gaine their retreat. With this intelligence he flew to *Certasilan*, *Certasilan* again flew whither he directed him with a troop of his freinds and servants. But

whatsoever diligence he used, and he used all that he could, he could not meet with these whom he saught for.

Some hunters who had first seen in armes *Alcidor* and his Company seeing again *Certasilan* and his, not knowing who they were nor with what intention they were abroad, carried notice of it to the King. The King dispatching troops in search of them, some of them in the inquest met with *Berlin* who had lost his way in a Wood. *Berlin* informing them what the business was, they carried him to the King. The King hearing his story, though he disliked the action of *Alcidor* as knocking against his authority, he nevertheless commanded that *Emissary* of *Certasilan* and those that had taken him upon perill of their lifes to speak nothing of it.

As they withdrew from his presence with this order *Certasilan* enterd it and in a most pittyfull fashion applying himself to him, see me here, Great Prince, said he, to demand justice against *Alcidor* for his egregious. Enterprize in carrying away my wife from the place whither your appointment sent her to keep her Sister company. You are more just than not to chastise this audacious undertaker who at the same time braves your authority and ruines the honor of

one of your moſt faithfull ſervants. I come now from ſeeking him, and could I have found him I would have made him bear upon the feild the revenge of the offence that he hath done me. Though by your own confeſſion, *Certaſilan*, returned *Polianis* to him, you demand not juſtice of me but becauſe you cannot execute it yourſelf, I have, notwithſtanding that, a due compaſſion of your trouble. You had done well if as ſoon as you knew what *Alcidor* had done you had inſtead of arming you and going abroad with a party to ſet upon him in my forreſt & kill him at the feet of your judge and his, came and complained to me of him. You know I ſuppoſe how your equipage hath alarumed me, and made me, leaſt my own perſon ſhould be aimed at, guard myſelf in a more than ordinary manner. But be patient and you ſhall ſee that I am King to animadvert upon thoſe that are inſolent. See withall, added he, what it is to incenſe wives, and the ſalary that one receives for ſuſpecting fooliſhly their fidelity. Without queſtion it is *Aſtaſia's* ſenſe of the old indignities that you have heaped upon her and her feares that you would load her farther with new ones that have moved her thus to take her flight from you. Did you not know

know that I am acquainted with a part of your capricious and frantick carriage towards her, I ſhould not at preſent put you in mind of it. The care that I have taken to reform it may well make you remember the little account that you have made of my remonſtrances and deſires. How often too hath *Feonice* ſoberly reproved you for thoſe furious humors with which you have made her Siſter weary of her life without being able to do any good upon you. *Aſtaſia* would be much more blameable than ſhe is, had ſhe not ſo much cauſe to complain of you as ſhe hath, and *Alcidor* would be far more culpable than he is, if you had not given him a very ſpecious pretext with which to excuſe himſelf. Not that I approve enormous actions: time will ſhew you that I very well know to correct and curbe the raſhneſs of thoſe who enterprize more than they ought in my dominion, where I would have not vice but vertue bear ſway: I have nothing of good reaſon, Sir, ſaid *Certaſilan*, where with to purge myſelf of the fault with which you charge me. I freely confeſs I am in a high degree guilty both of diſreſpect to your Majeſty and of inhumanity to *Aſtaſia*: when I diſobeyed you, I had loſt my reaſon, when I treated her ill, I was madde, and

when I armed myſelf and my freinds to deſtroy *Alcidor*, my trouble made me forget my duty and think of nothing but revenge. Pardon me, Sir, for what is paſt, and for what is to come, I ſhall ſo change my temper that neither your Majeſty ſhall have occaſion to reprove me for my capricious and franticke carriage towards *Aſtaſia*, nor *Feonice* for my furious humor. But to give proof of what I ſay, where is now *Aſtaſia*? She is raviſht from me, Sir, and it is from your juſtice that I wait for reparation of the injury. If *Aſtaſia*, *Certaſilan*, ſaid the King to him, hath cauſed herſelf to be carried away, it is not to ruine either her own honor or yours; her vertue forbids any thing bad to be ſuſpected of her, and you well know ſhe hath not gone away but to warrant herſelf from the afflictions which ſhe apprehended you would lay upon her afreſh. Retire therefore without any diſorder, and leave me to manage her return and the whole affair; I will labour both for your contentment and of all that are concerned.

Certaſilan in obedience to what the King ſaid withdrawing, better ſatisfied than he hoped to be, was no ſooner come into his doors but *Floras* came to him, expreſt a very af-

affectionate regret for his Ladies flight, and offerd to find her out whereſoever ſhe was and to carry her to whatſoever place he ſhould appoint. Beleeving he ſpake from his heart, he heartyly thankt him, but withall told him that he was now ſo far remote from any ſuch purpoſe as he before deſired him to aſſiſt him in, that he had no longer any ſuſpicion of his wife, and that, the King having promiſed to reconcile them, he made no queſtion but what had paſt, though it ſeemed to be very much to his detriment, would turn as much to his benefit.

While *Certaſilan* was thus growing convert from his jealouſy, though ſhe who had been the object of it little thought of his change, yet having reached her retreat in which ſhe ſaw ſhe was out of danger of the tormenting effects of that his raging humor, knowing alſo that ſhe had in *Feonice* a better ſecond with the King than that ſhe needed fear his anger, experimenting beſides in the company of *Alcidor* the difference between kind reſpects and barbarous indignities ſhe relaxed her mind, tied up as it had been to a diet of ſorrow, to feed at large upon delight. *Alcidor* alſo made much of the liberty which he had of her ſociety and congratulated himſelfe in it as a moſt bleſt man. But

yet amidſt theſe inchanting ſweetneſſes they both of them had ſo much conſideration that *Alcidor* by *Aſtaſia*'s approbation left her the next morning and went to the King to give him an account of what they had done. Which being performed, and the King having read the letter of *Floras* to *Aſtaſia*, it is by this, ſaid he to *Alcidor* holding it in his hand, what we ſhall ſtill the complaints of *Certaſilan*, who yeſterday demanded juſtice of me againſt you. I ſuppoſe *Floras* will not want the courage to maintain to his face that not being able to execute what he deſired without an odious baſeneſs he thought himſelf bound by the Laws of humanity to give notice of it to her againſt whom it was intended. I will therefore in your juſtification ſend for him and ingage him publickly to own himſelf the author of what you have been the agent. Your Majeſty, replied *Alcidor*, will (I make no queſtion) bring the affaire to ſuch an iſſue that the vertue of *Aſtaſia*, the honeſty of *Floras* and my fidelity ſhall lie under no ill name. He had ſcarce ſaid ſo when *Floras* came into the Chamber, whom the King as ſoon as he ſaw him asking what brought him thither ſo early he anſwerd, the ſervice that he owed his Majeſty. But how, ſaid the King, can I be-

beleive them my ſervants who league themſelves with *Certaſilan* to carry on his tyranny, over his wife altogether contrary to my will. If your Majeſty, returned *Floras*, will be pleaſed to let my ſpeak for my ſelf I make no queſtion but I ſhall ſo fully clear my innocence in that which you accuſe me of; that you will deigne me inſtead of your diſfavor your approbation. Trouble not yourſelf *Floras*, replied the King, you may by this ſee (therewith he ſhewed him his letter to *Aſtaſia*) that my accuſation of you is only feined. But it is requiſite that you maintain before me to the face of *Certaſilan* that he deſired you to be confederate and executioner of that deteſtable peice of violence upon his wife of carrying her to the place which he intended to make her jayle, and that having a horror of it you, as you thought yourſelf in honor bound, diſcovered the contrivance to her. Your Majeſty, ſaid *Floras*, requires no more of me than what truth, common equity and my own credit render my duty, and what I am therefore ready with all my heart to do. *Certaſilan* will not, I am ſure, deny that the evening before his wife went with her Siſter to the Waters carrying me into your Majeſtye's garden he there told me that he was reſolved

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to ſhut her up and keep her in Cloſe impriſonment all her life, diſcoverd to me the plott that he had laid to effect it, and conjured me to be the Conductor of it, that which I promiſed him to be though at the ſame time I determined the contrary. Hearing him ſay ſo, the King ſent a page for *Certaſilan*; who preſently coming allmoſt out of breath with haſte, oh *Certaſilan*, ſaid the King to him, here is *Alcidor* now againſt whom you yeſterday demanded juſtice of me; tell me therefore if you are in the ſame mind to day. The offence that he had done me, Sir, replied *Certaſilan*, is greater by much than that unleſs I am unſenſible I ſhould eaſily forget it or paſs it by. To this *Alcidor* having his mouth open to repart, If you think, *Certaſilan*, ſaid the King, that in having delivered *Aſtaſia* from your ugly and unſufferable oppreſſion *Alcidor* hath committed a great offence, you muſt ſeek elſe where to have him puniſht than of me, and perſwade me to chaſtiſe myſelf. It was indeed by my order that he conveighd away your wife whom I knew *Flora* who is here preſent was by your order to carry away, to make her miſerable all her life. I would not yeſterday tell you this becauſe I expected that you would of yourſelf confeſs

your

your fault: but finding you ſtill in the mind to perſiſt in it, I would have you know that Kings have intelligences which their people have not. Hear *Floras* ſpeak againſt you, he is a witneſs whom you cannot refuſe. Preſently *Floras* offering to convict him, ſee, *Certaſilan*, proceeded the King, the Letter which hath diſcoverd your conſpiracy, and obliged me to take into my protection the deare Siſter of *Feonice*, and give *Alcidor* command to carry her away. *Certaſilan* having read the Letter with the name of *Floras* to it, Juſt heavens, cried he, what means you have to take vengeance on the wicked, cauſing them to be detected by by the ſame perſons whom they would render partiſans of their wickedneſs. I ſee, Sir, added he, that he who I expected would have favoured my enterprize, hath accuſed me of it: but I am ſo far from taking it ill at his hands that he hath uſed me thus, that I very much eſteem him for it, knowing that he hath herein been a true freind as well to my happineſs as to his own honor. I confeſs, repent, renounce my bruitiſhneſs towards *Aſtaſia*, and I will no more be governed with that madneſs which hath hitherto made me continually ſee things otherwiſe than they have really been. Hearing

him

him in this ſtrain, mens hearts, ſaid *Polianis*, do ſometimes change on a ſudden, but that *Certaſilan* whom all my Court have for his uſage of his wife reckoned not much better than a ſalvage beaſt ſhould in a moment become humane and tractable is a wonder which will very hardly gain beleif. I ſhall nothwithſtanding take your word and I ſhall indeavor alſo to bring your wife to do the ſame and to make you freinds. For a prologue to which reconciliation between you and her, I muſt at preſent have one made between you and *Alcidor*; oppoſe my will, neither of you. I am ready, Sir, ſaid *Alcidor*, to give *Certaſilan* teſtimony that I have a ſerious deſire to ſerve him. And I, ſaid *Certaſilan*, am ready to make it appear that I cordially honor *Alcidor*. Many more expreſſions of amity uſed *Certaſilan* to *Alcidor*, and *Alcidor* to *Certaſilan*; many alſo uſed *Certaſilan* and *Floras* to one another. In the interim of which laſt, the King drawing *Alcidor* aſide askt him, if it was not adviſeable that *Aſtaſia* ſhould be preſently brought back to *Certaſilan*. To this, that he might impede the union which he feared would impede his loves, your Majeſty, anſwered he, may undertake whatſoever you think good, and I acknowledge one cannot

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do better than rejoin theſe divided ſpirits, but I withall know that *Certaſilan*'s acted and intended inhumanities have ſo irritated his Lady againſt him that ſhe can ſcarce endure to hear his name; much leſs will ſhe endure quickly to returne to his perſon. His brutall unkindeneſs hath newly forced her to ſeek her ſafety in running away from him, it cannot be therefore expected that ſhe ſhould ſuddenly truſt herſelf again with him. For if ſhe is of a ſweet diſpoſition ſhe is alſo ſenſible of abuſes. There is reaſon, *Alcidor*, ſaid the King, in what you ſay: It is indeed neceſſary both that he ſhould undergo pennance for what he hath done, and that ſhe ſhould receive ſatisfaction for what ſhe had ſufferd. He ſhall not therefore come near her till he hath appeaſed her. But that he may have no occaſion of ſpeaking or thinking ill of her abſence and that all Kings may go according to decency, I would have her leave the place where ſhe is, and put herſelf with the Religious of whom your Kinſwoman is the ſuperiour.

The King, who though he had a ſharp ingeny to peirce into the myſteries of love perceived nothing of *Alcidor*'s towards *Aſtaſia*, having thus concluded with him about the diſpoſing of her as if he had had a mind

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to furniſh him with meanes of ſeeing her without exception. Her husband coming to him, your Majeſty, ſaid he, I hope queſtions not my reſolution of relapſing no more into my old diſeaſe; permit me therefore I beſeech you to have before my eyes her whom I have moſt unjuſtly tormented but without whom I cannot now live but in torment myſelf. Conſidering the animoſities which you have raiſed in her, returned the King to him, and the condition into which you have driven her, it would be plain folly to imagin that ſhe ſhould be eaſily bent and retrived to your will. She is not retired from the world to be willing to converſe ſo ſoon again with men, eſpecially with him who hath given her ſuch arguments of diſtruſting him as you have done, My Counſell therefore to you is that ſuffering her to live with her regret for a time among that vertuous troop whither ſhe hath withdrawn herſelf you let her know your repentance by letters, and by promiſing her a uſage to come as kind as what is paſt hath been harſh, you endeavor to make her loſe that grudge with which her ſtomach boiles againſt you. This I beleive to be the beſt expedient that you can uſe to reſtore you with her, and I will withall deſire *Feonice*

as

as ſoon as ſhe returnes to advance your reconciliation the quickliest that ſhe can. That I muſt not preſently have her company, anſwered *Certaſilan*, is an infelicity which I know not how to undergo; but I ſhall, all that I am able, inforce myſelf to be patient under it, knowing myſelf to be the cauſe of it; and I will draw from my afflicted heart the moſt moving and effectuall lines that I can to procure my peace with her. I would have no other but *Floras* deliver them to her, ſaid the King, for the ſight of him will I beleive be very acceptable to her; ſince it was by his means that ſhe knew and diſappointed your intentions of immuring her. *Floras* ſpeaking himſelf very deſirous of the ſervice *Certaſilan* preſently took him to his Chamber and there wrot this letter before him.

Certaſilan *to* Aſtaſia.

YOu are no more to fear the furious tranſports of Certaſilan; *the King*, Alcidor *and* Floras *know that I have as affectionate deſires of making your honor ſhine as ever my uſage of you hath been cruell with which I have gone about to darken it. Remember therefore no more my outrages unleſs it be to repreſent to*

your

your ſelf the greife which I have for making you ſuffer them, but permit me to come to you in the Cloiſter where Alcidor *hath told me you have ſettled your new abode. He and I am freinds, and I ſhall allwayes eſteem myſelf redeuable to* Floras *for the aduiſe that he gave you. Judge therefore if I conſider not my miſdemeanors with a penitent ſhame and horror.*

Certaſilan having after he had read this Letter to *Floras* committed it to his charge, he and *Alcidor* went together with it to *Aſtaſia.* In the Court of whoſe retreat they and *Feonice* very happily arriving together, ſhe contained not her ſelf a minute after ſhe had notice of it, but inſtantly flew from her Chamber to receive them. The firſt ceremonies of meeting being done, *Floras* preſented to her the Letter which he had in truſt. Which ſhe having read firſt to herſelf, then aloud, and *Floras* and *Alcidor* having related what had paſt between the King, *Certaſilan* and themſelves ſhe expreſt a joy which overflowed the banks of her uſuall moderation, and ſhe acknowledged herſelf debtor to both of them with a ſtream of thanks which though they ſet themſelves againſt it bare them away with it. She beſides as ſoon as ſhe had opportunity declared

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to *Alcidor*, that ſhe was therefore tranſported with the change of *Certaſilan*, becauſe ſhe hoped that they two might by that means keep an unobſtructed and an unſuſpected correſpondency. They indeed both of them watched all opportunities, and made the beſt of them, to give one another teſtimonies of an ardent affection; and there was nothing wanting to them but a full liberty of doing ſo to complete the ſweetneſſes of the preſent ſociety. But to *Feonice* there was wanting the preſence and careſſes of *Polianis*: with him ſhe thought long to be; but ſhe was obliged by his deſires, of which *Alcidor* was the meſſenger to her, before ſhe took her way to him to ſee her Siſter ſafe at the Religious Houſe where he had appointed ſhe ſhould ſtay. Thither therefore they all, after two days, conducted her, and there after two or three hours they left her, ſhe having firſt written, and committed to the care of *Floras*, the enſuing Letter.

Aſtaſia *to* Certaſilan.

I Receive ſome comfort amidſt my miſeries by knowing that you are troubled for making me endure them; but I cannot loſe my ſenſe of the barbarouſneſs with which you have made me endure them. It is againſt that, you know, that I have been conſtrained, ſeeing what little reſpect you bore to the royal

 manſion

manſion, to take Sanctuary in a religious one. Here having conſulted ſpirits to whom my intereſts are very dear, I am adviſed to paſs ſome moneths to gain freſh ſtrength, with which to ſerve my ſelf if you ſhall go about again to make me a ſufferer; and hence I ſhall then come, and not till then, when I ſhall be well aſſured that you will have no more deſign of making me your Slave, who am your Wife; and of deſtroying me, whom you ought to Cheriſh.

The prudent Truſtee of theſe lines carrying them firſt to the King, then to him to whom they were directed, with the ſcheme in which he repreſented to him all things concerning his Lady at the ſame time, whetted his deſires of recovering her company, and wrought him without any peeviſhneſs, to ſubmit to her determination of ſtaying a while from him. The King, *Certaſilan* carrying the Letter to him, after he had read it the ſecond time as if it had been the firſt, ſeconded what *Floras* had ſaid to him; and by the comment which he made upon *Aſtaſia*'s text abſolutely convinced him, that for her to abſent her ſelf for a while from him was no more than what ſhe owed to her innocence, and to her repoſe; and that for him, after he had driven her away from him, to force her to return to him before ſhe thought it convenient, was to perſiſt in his mercileſs perſecution of her, not to repent of it.

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Notwithstanding this, his fond appetite of having her again with him, growing every hour more & more restlesly eager, he was continually solliciting the King, *Feonice*, *Floras*, and *Alcidor*, to be the charitable Authors of procuring and hastening it; and the three former were serious in advancing what he sued for; *Alcidor* also made shews of favouring it as much as any, but having liberty where she was of seeing her every day without disturbance, he clancularly set all the engines of his wit on work to keep her there: and by his elusive arts he retarded her return to *Certasilan* for a moneth, without either the King knowing any thing of their amorous converses, or *Certasilan* discovering so much as the Scene where they were Acted. But at length, the King making oath to that disconsolate and importunate husband, that he would within eight dayes bring her back into his arms, and sending her Sister to her to effect it, he remonstrated first to himself, and then to her, that to keep the Kings favour, to preserve her honour and happiness, and dextrously to conduct the caball of their loves, it was necessary she should rejoyn her self with him to whom the Laws had tied her, and whose remorses called her back to him. To this his advice (they having ratified their affections to one another with fresh and strong protestations of constancy) and to her Sister's per-

perſwaſions ſhe reſigned her ſelf, and they went together the next morning to *Paquin*.

Here ſhe had not been many hours before word was ſent of it to *Certaſilan*, but this notice withall, that ſhe would never more co-habit with him unleſs he would ſwear before the King, *Feonice*, *Alcidor*, and *Floras*, that he would never more abuſe her. To this he returning anſwer, that he had not ſo wholly loſt his Reaſon as to refuſe to redeem his happineſs upon ſuch eaſie and honourable terms, an interview was ordered and effected; and he, before the witneſſes that ſhe deſired, made Oath to her, that his carriage towards her for the time to come ſhould be a perfect recantation of what was paſt, and an unblotted Copy of all the offices of Love. He having by theſe and other unqueſtionable teſtimonies of his reformation obliged her to be reconciled to him, and ſhe having declared that ſhe was willing to be ſo, The King put her into his hands, with a moſt binding exhortation to him to be as good as his word. Which done, and he having kiſt her with a kind of adoration before *Polianis*, he carried her to a houſe which he had prepared for her reception; and there the next day banquetted *Feonice*, *Alcidor*, and *Floras*, with a moſt magnificent kindneſs.

He in the ſequel of this never ſtirred from her,

her, but was continually paying her the reſpects not only of a fond husband, but of a ſuperſtitious votary; and after a while, that he might enjoy her beloved ſociety at quiet, he, with her conſent, carried her into the Countrey, and there ſetled their habitation. This change of their abode is believed to have put an end to the loves between *Aſtaſia* and *Alcidor*, in her abſence another Lady taking poſſeſſion of his heart: but having of this no clear knowledge I chooſe to ſpeak of it not at all, rather than not ſufficiently.

Melian having done reading, and reſigned the book, and the Company having thankt *Alcidor* for the uſe of it, *Alcidor*, ſaid *Dorame*, would be yet more obliging, if he would recount to us thoſe his following loves, which the writer ſayes he was not well enough acquainted with. You will, it may be, replyed *Alcidor*, when you have heard all, name me a very inconſtant man; but there is nothing in the world, beſides your diſaffection, which I would not cheerfully undertake, or undergo, to ſatisfie you. I am therefore ready to do that which you deſire. To this *Dorame* making no other anſwer but by diſpoſing her ſelf to an attention, he ſuccinctly related what had paſt between him and *Carmelia*; what alſo between him and *Felisbea*, carefully reſerving whatſoever might ſeem to knock againſt the honour of either of them.

His narrative concluded, you cannot think, ſaid *Dorame* to him, that *Felisbea* dyed for any thing elſe but for your neglects; and I cannot but wonder that, her beauty being very taking, her wit accompliſht, and her quality honourable, you would not think of marrying her. I acknowledge, returned *Alcidor* to her, that the birth and perfections of that young Lady were ſuch as challenged for her a husband of a far higher form than *Alcidor*; but there are certain fatalities which rule the courſe of our lives, ſo that we act not but according to their preſcriptions. What was the cauſe of *Felisbea*'s death I know not; but the reaſon why I was not in love with her, without doubt, was, becauſe my deſtiny [illegible] me to be in love with the incompa[illegible] *Dorame*. It is for the love and ſervice of [illegible], Madam, continued he, that I was born, and that I am to live; my paſſion for you is not of the number of [illegible] that are ruined by time; and this, I reckon, I can vow before no perſons better than before theſe your neareſt relations; and I vow it with ſo ſincere an ardor, that I am ready to ſign it with whatſoever there is that is deareſt to me. Hearing theſe words come from him, we have reaſon to believe my Neice, ſaid *Rolimon*, that *Alcidor* ſpeaks from his heart; and to what purpoſe ſhould theſe many Ceremonies be uſed where marriage is the ſubſtance aimed

aimed at? My opinion is, that you ſhould make a mutual contract of love, after which there will be no fear that any body elſe ſhould pretend to either of you. You ſpeak, Sir, replyed *Alcidor* to him, like one that knows how to find the knot of ſuch an affair as this is in hand; And I ſwear, Madam, addreſt he himſelf to *Dorame*, that if you will think of no other Husband but *Alcidor*, I will think of no other Wife but *Dorame*. And I proteſt, returned *Dorame* to him, that if you will have no other Wife but *Dorame*, I will have no other Husband but *Alcidor*. He having, as ſoon as thoſe words were out of her mouth, with a graceful veneration kiſt it, they again by *Melian*'s motion ſolemnly promis'd to marry one the other as ſoon as ſhe had compleated her year of Widdow-hood. During which time *Floriſa* was courted in Marriage by *Eridan*, *Aſtaſia* dyed, and *Carmelia* took the habit of a Religious; ſo that nothing now obſtructed the Loves of *Alcidor* and *Dorame*.

The Day come, and thoſe that were invited rendring themſelves at the Palace of *Dorame* (for ſo it may well be called, conſidering the Glories with which it ſhone) the Illuſtrious pair of Lovers were joyned together with Ceremonies of exquiſite ſtate; there was indeed nothing of the Day which did not make it memorable, the Feaſting, the Dancing, the Maſquing, the Muſick,

were all instances of choice Gallantry and Magnificence; but the faireſt thing of all was the delivering up of *Dorame* into the hands of *Alcidor*, by Ladies, whoſe beauty deſerved they ſhould have been lookt upon as ſo many Suns, but that they were obſcured by that of the Bride.

What paſt in the Night between this excellent couple is a Myſtery, which to divulge would be too profane; but they appeared the next Morning like ſuch who had been drinking to, and pledging one another, in thoſe delights which are the prize, the recompence, and the food of love. Their humour had nothing in it, but ſerenity; the Company therefore had nothing in it, but mirth; and to nouriſh it to the higheſt, improvement was made of all the Recreations of body and ſpirit that were gentile and opportune. This continued eight days together, after which (there being a neceſſity that ſuch Feſtivities ſhould have an end, as well as a beginning) the Aſſembly diſſolved, and left *Alcidor* and *Dorame* to enjoy themſelves, by themſelves.

FINIS.